Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2010

Atchafalaya, Henderson, and Verret Black Bass Survey

By
M. Lee Buckner
Jack C. Isaacs
Ebenezer Ogunyinka
Michael Walker
David Lavergne

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
(225) 765-2800
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov

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Executive Summary

The primary goal of the 2010 Fishing Survey was to determine the Louisiana fishing public's desired management practices for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex. Specifically, it was designed to measure the desires of Louisiana recreational fishing license holders for bag and size limits for bass in these waterbodies. The survey also collected demographic and fishing activity data from survey participants to determine if different groups have different views regarding these issues.

For the Atchafalaya Basin, this report shows that a majority of survey respondents wanted to keep the current 10 fish daily limit for bass. This finding was constant among all survey respondents, freshwater anglers, and Atchafalaya Basin anglers.

The findings for desired bass daily bag limits in Henderson Lake and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex were less pronounced. However, the most commonly desired management practice for all analyzed segments of respondents for both waterbodies was also to keep the 10 fish daily limit for bass. The second most common response for each group for both waterbodies was "No Opinion".

For bass size limits, this report shows that a majority of responses by all respondents and a plurality of responses by Atchafalaya Basin anglers did not indicate a desire to change the 14-inch minimum size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (indicated a preference to keep the current size limit or that they have no opinion). For both groups, among responses that indicated a preference for changing the size limit, there was not a consensus for how they desired the size limit to be changed but the most common preference was to decrease the size limit for the Atchafalaya Basin. For both groups, among respondents who preferred to decrease the limit, the most commonly recommended limit was 12 inches. Thirteen percent of responses by

Atchafalaya Basin anglers and 10 percent of responses by all respondents indicated a preference for the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin.

The findings for bass size limits in Henderson Lake were similar to the findings for the Atchafalaya Basin. Among Henderson Lake anglers, 36 percent of their responses indicated a desire to keep the current limit and 20 percent indicated that they had no opinion. Their most commonly preferred changes were to decrease or remove the size limit (29 percent of responses). Twelve percent of responses by Henderson Lake anglers indicated a preference for the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake.

For bass size limits in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex, among anglers in this waterbody, 37 percent of responses indicated a preference to decrease or remove the size limit. Twenty-six percent of their responses indicated a desire to keep the current limit and 21 percent indicated that they had no opinion. Fourteen percent of their responses indicated a preference for the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex.

This report highlights regional differences in preferences for bass daily bag and size limits in all three waterbodies. Specifically, respondents who reside in parishes to the west of the Atchafalaya Basin were more likely to prefer to keep the current daily bag and size limits for all three waterbodies than respondents who reside in parishes to the east of the Atchafalaya Basin. However, a majority of regional difference findings were not statistically significant (at 5 percent level) so the same results may not be found in another sample.

For bass in all three waterbodies, this report shows that, among respondents who indicated a preference for decreasing daily bag limits, the most commonly desired size limit regulation was to keep the current size limit. Also, among respondents who indicated a

preference for increasing daily bag limits, over half of their responses to the question asking their preference for size limits were to eliminate or reduce the current 14-inch size limit.

SECTION 1.

Introduction and Survey Implementation

Chapter 1.

Introduction

The state of Louisiana offers an abundance of recreational freshwater and saltwater fishing opportunities for anglers. It is the mission of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to encourage the utilization of these resources while conserving and protecting Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources for present and future generations of Louisiana citizens. The purpose of this report is to help LDWF better achieve its mission with respect to fish resources.

Three popular freshwater fishing locations in southern Louisiana are the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex. Black bass are among the recreational species commonly targeted by anglers in these waterbodies. A primary goal of this report is to identify how anglers, who live near these waterbodies, want LDWF to manage the population of black bass in these waterbodies. Specifically, what size black bass do these anglers feel that an individual should be allowed to keep and how many should they be allowed to keep each day.

Further, this report will identify at which freshwater locations the surveyed anglers fish, how many days they spent fishing in freshwater and saltwater in 2009, what species they target when they fish, if they hunt, and what level of concern they have regarding six specific issues faced by recreational anglers (improving aquatic weed control, increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps, cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana's waterways, resolving issues related to landowners and fishing access, controlling the silver carp population, and providing more information to anglers, such as lake maps with locations of boat ramps and fishing piers). The combination of all of this information will be used to identify the preferences

of the Louisiana angling public with regards to bass management in three popular waterbodies in South-Central Louisiana and give LDWF a better understanding of the anglers that it serves.

Chapter 2.

Survey Design, Sampling, and Response Rate

A. The Questionnaire

The 2010 Fishing Survey was designed to minimize the amount of effort required by participants to complete the questionnaire and to encourage a high response rate. The questionnaire primarily collected information about bass management preferences in the Atchafalaya Basin area. However, information on fishing activities outside the Atchafalaya Basin area was also collected to develop a better understanding of the angling desires of respondents. The additional information was anticipated to allow for analysis to determine if different segments of the angling public have different desires for bass management practices in South-Central Louisiana waterbodies. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 3.

B. Survey Sample

In 2008, a statewide fishing survey was conducted by Ogunyinka and Lavergne[1] with the primary objectives of examining awareness of health/fish consumption advisory notices among Louisiana recreational fishing license holders and changes in their fishing activities and fish consumption as a result of the advisory notices. A question in this survey asked respondents to identify their three favorite freshwater fishing spots or waterbodies, the number of fishing trips they took to these fishing spots or waterbodies, and the number of miles (distances) they traveled from their homes in order to fish in their favorite fishing spots or waterbodies. The findings from this study, especially the distances traveled by respondents to their favorite fishing spots or

[1] Source: Ogunyinka, Ebenezer O., and Lavergne, David R. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 2008 Louisiana Recreational Fisherman and Health Advisory Survey Report. June, 2009.

waterbodies, were pivotal to the construction of the sampling design for the 2010 Fishing Survey.

Ogunyinka and Lavergne found that, among Louisiana recreational fishing license holders who indicated that the Atchafalaya Basin was among their three favorite freshwater fishing spots, the average distance that they traveled to reach the Atchafalaya Basin was 34.5 miles. Further, the maximum distance traveled to the Atchafalaya Basin was 80 miles, the shortest distance traveled was zero miles, and the median distance traveled was 32.5 miles. Similar distances were found for travel to Henderson Lake, Grassy Lake, Lake Verret, and Lake Palourde. Summary statistics for the distances traveled to all five waterbodies can be found in Table 1. Additionally, their report indicated that the distances traveled to these waterbodies were concentrated between zero and 60 miles and the average distance traveled to each waterbody was less than 40 miles.

Table 1. Distance (Miles) Traveled by Respondents to Atchafalaya Basin as Found by Ogunyinka and Lavergne

Fishing Spot	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean
Atchafalaya Basin	0.0	80.0	32.5	34.5
Henderson Lake	0.0	70.0	25.0	28.8
Grassy Lake	6.0	60.0	6.0	24.0
Lake Verret	2.0	85.0	40.0	37.4
Lake Palourde	2.0	60.0	17.5	25.7
All	0.0	85.0	30.0	33.0

Based on the findings of Ogunyinka and Lavergne, home address zip code information from the LDWF recreational licensing database was used to identify individuals who lived within 60 miles of the Atchafalaya Basin, as these individuals were assumed to be the most likely to fish in the three waterbodies focused on in the 2010 Fishing Survey. SAS procedure "Survey Select" was used in conjunction with Raosoft's sample size calculator

(http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html) to randomly select a sample with a total of 2,000 respondents (from a population of 288,885 basic fishing, Louisiana sportsman's paradise, hook and line, senior hunt and fish, disabled fishing, lifetime fishing, lifetime fishing and hunting, non-active Louisiana national guard, and disabled veteran fishing license holders with a home zip code within 60 miles of the Atchafalaya Basin in license year 2009, with a 2.1 percent margin of error, 95 percent confidence level, and 50 percent response distribution) from all strata. Selections from each stratum were proportional to the area and stratum sizes.

C. Questionnaire Mailings

Questionnaires were mailed to 1,997 individuals between October 1, 2010 and October 5, 2010. This was smaller than the intended 2,000 individuals because of rounding issues during sample pulling, removal of four individuals because of obviously incorrect addresses, removal of one individual because he was an LDWF employee, and removal of one individual who appeared to be pulled into the sample twice (duplicate name and address information). A cover letter, which explained that participation in the survey was voluntary and that responses would be confidential, was included with each questionnaire.

On October 26, 2010, follow-up postcards were mailed to individuals who had not returned the questionnaire to LDWF or if the questionnaire had not been returned to sender by that date. The postcards served as a reminder for the individuals to complete and return the questionnaire. Follow-up postcards were mailed to 1,576 individuals.

A second copy of the questionnaire was mailed between November 10, 2010 and November 12, 2010 to individuals who had not returned the first copy of the questionnaire to LDWF or if the first questionnaire and follow-up postcard had not been returned to sender by

November 10, 2010. One thousand three hundred eighty-five (1,385) individuals were mailed a second questionnaire.

D. Survey Response Rate

All questionnaires received by December 17, 2010 were included in the analysis for this report. As of December 17, 2010, 663 questionnaires had been received. Two individuals returned blank questionnaires to LDWF and are not considered to have responded to the survey.

As of December 17, 2010, 255 individuals had their first mailing of the questionnaire, their reminder postcard, or the second mailing of the questionnaire returned to sender. It is assumed that these individuals were never actually contacted to participate in the survey and are therefore not considered part of the survey sample. After excluding these individuals, the adjusted sample size for the survey was 1,742. With these reductions, the adjusted response rate for the survey was 38.1 percent.

SECTION 2.

Respondent Characteristics

Chapter 3.

Respondents' Characteristics and Fishing Activities

The questionnaire included several questions designed to develop a greater understanding of the survey respondents. These data served two purposes: they provided a more robust understanding of the respondents and allowed respondents to be segmented to determine if different segments had different preferences for bass management.

A. Gender of Respondents

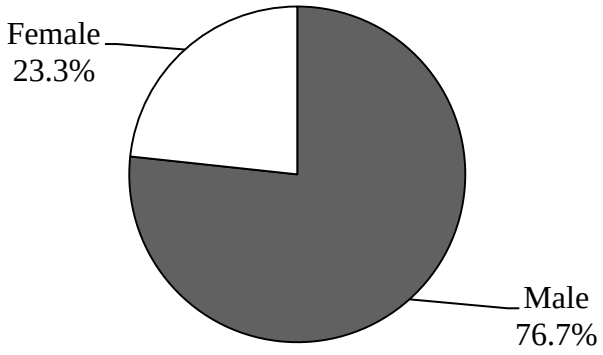
Gender data is not collected when a Louisiana recreational fishing license is issued. Therefore, it was necessary to collect gender data in alternative methods to estimate the ratio of male to female anglers in the Atchafalaya Basin area.

Because gender was not considered when drawing the survey sample, it was assumed that a representative ratio of females to males within the sample area was surveyed. Further, it was assumed that female and male license holders who were invited to participate in the survey were equally likely to complete the questionnaire and return it to LDWF.

Six hundred fifty-seven (657) of 663 respondents responded to the gender question in the survey. As illustrated in Figure 1, 76.7 percent of those respondents indicated that they were male. This gender composition finding is consistent with the finding of Current and Future Participation in Marine Recreational Fishing in the Southeast U.S. Region report, which found that in Louisiana 74.9 percent of recreational anglers are male and 25.1 percent of recreational anglers are female.[2]

[2] Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Current and Future Participation in Marine Recreational Fishing in the Southeast U.S. Region. September 2000.

Figure 1. Gender of Respondents



B. Parish of Residence of Respondents

In the questionnaire, participants were asked to indicate their zip code. The primary reason for this question was to identify the distribution of parishes where respondents reside. A secondary purpose for this question was to determine if the distribution of the respondents' parishes of residence was comparable to the distribution of the parishes to which the questionnaires were mailed.

As illustrated in Table 2, the distribution of parishes where the questionnaires were mailed is comparable to the zip code of residence of the survey participants. The most common parishes of residence for respondents (based on reported zip code) were East Baton Rouge and Lafayette. This result was expected as these are the parishes to which the largest numbers of questionnaires were mailed. The largest discrepancy between percentages of questionnaires mailed/residence was 1.3 percent (Rapides Parish). A possible explanation for this discrepancy is that the LDWF recreational licensing database did not have the correct address for some respondents and that the questionnaires mailed to these respondents were forwarded to the correct address by the United States Postal Service.

Table 2. Parish of Residence of Respondents and Parishes Where Survey Instruments Were Mailed

Parish of Residence	Count of Surveys Received	Percentage of Surveys Received	Percentage of Surveys Mailed	Parish of Residence	Count of Surveys Received	Percentage of Surveys Received	Percentage of Surveys Mailed
Acadia	20	3.1%	3.5%	Pointe Coupee	10	1.6%	1.4%
Allen	4	0.6%	0.8%	Rapides	35	5.4%	4.1%
Ascension	29	4.5%	5.0%	St. Charles	11	1.7%	2.5%
Assumption	15	2.3%	1.4%	St. Helena	1	0.2%	0.2%
Avoyelles	15	2.3%	2.6%	St. James	3	0.5%	1.1%
Catahoula	0	0.0%	0.6%	St. Landry	36	5.6%	4.7%
Concordia	4	0.6%	0.5%	St. Martin	20	3.1%	2.8%
East Baton Rouge	76	11.8%	11.3%	St. Mary	19	2.9%	3.3%
East Feliciana	7	1.1%	0.9%	St. Tammany	1	0.2%	0.0%
Evangeline	15	2.3%	2.1%	St. John the Baptist	6	0.9%	1.8%
Iberia	29	4.5%	4.3%	Tangipahoa	18	2.8%	2.8%
Iberville	14	2.2%	1.6%	Tensas	1	0.2%	0.0%
Jefferson	29	4.5%	4.4%	Terrebonne	49	7.6%	8.0%
Jefferson Davis	4	0.6%	1.2%	Vermilion	25	3.9%	3.9%
Lafayette	60	9.3%	10.1%	West Baton Rouge	12	1.9%	1.3%
Lafourche	36	5.6%	6.0%	West Feliciana	3	0.5%	0.5%
Livingston	38	5.9%	6.3%				
Total Valid US Zip Code Responses: 645 Responses That Were Not Valid US Zip Code: 4							

C. Age of Respondents

Six hundred fifty-six (656) of 663 respondents responded to the age question in the survey. The average age of all survey respondents, as illustrated in Table 3, was 47.2 years old. The youngest respondent was 16 years old and the oldest was 82 years old. Among all respondents, as illustrated in Figure 2, 16.9 percent indicated that they were 30 years old or younger, 25.2 percent indicated that they were 31 to 45 years old, 37.7 percent indicated that they were 46 to 60 years old, and 20.3 percent indicated that they were 61 years old or older. Further information about respondent ages can be found in Table 3 and Figures 2 to 4.

One hundred fifty-two (152) female respondents indicated their age in the survey. The average age for female respondents was 43.7 years old. The median age for female respondents was 46 years old. As illustrated in Figure 3, 25.0 percent of female respondents indicated that they were 30 years old or younger, 24.3 percent indicated that they were 31 to 45 years old, 40.8 percent indicated that they were 46 to 60 years old, and 9.9 percent indicated that they were 61 years old or older.

Five hundred three (503) male respondents indicated their age in the survey. The average age for male respondents was 48.2 years old. The median age for male respondents was 50 years old. As illustrated in Figure 4, 14.5 percent of male respondents indicated that they were 30 years old or younger, 25.4 percent indicated that they were 31 to 45 years old, 36.8 percent indicated that they were 46 to 60 years old, and 23.3 percent indicated that they were 61 years old or older.

Table 3. Distribution of the Age of Respondents, by Gender

	Average	Median	Youngest	Oldest
All	47.2	49	16	82
Female	43.7	46	17	78
Male	48.2	50	16	82

Figure 2. Age of All Respondents (N=656)

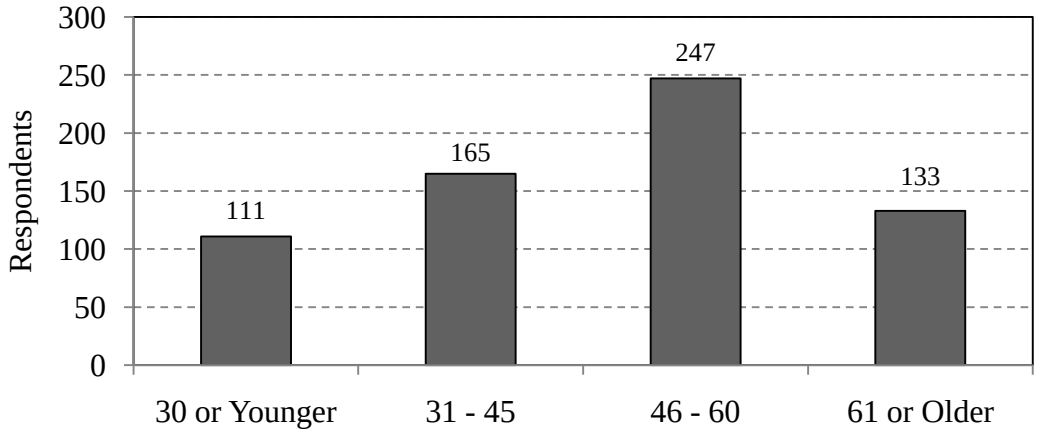


Figure 3. Age of Female Respondents (N=152)

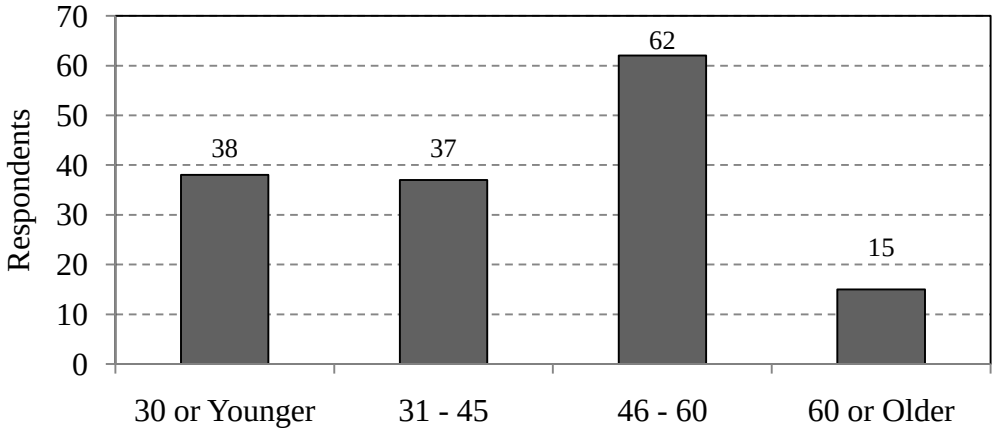
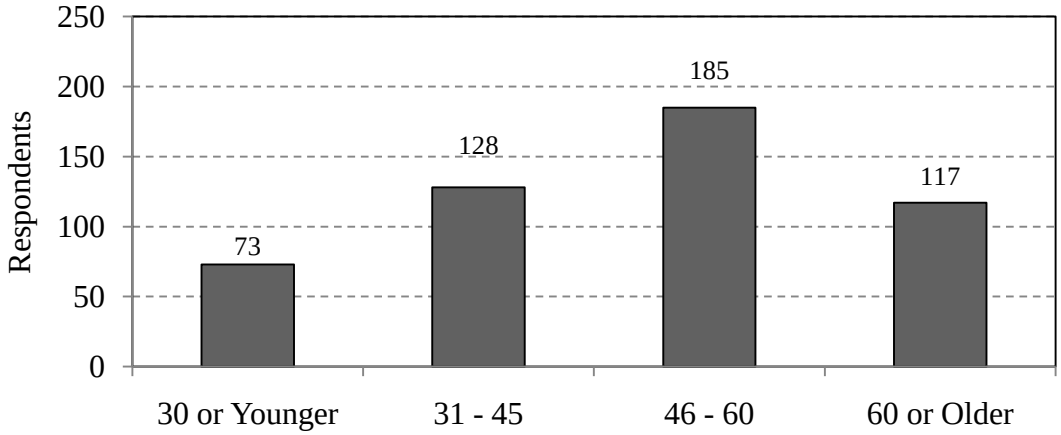


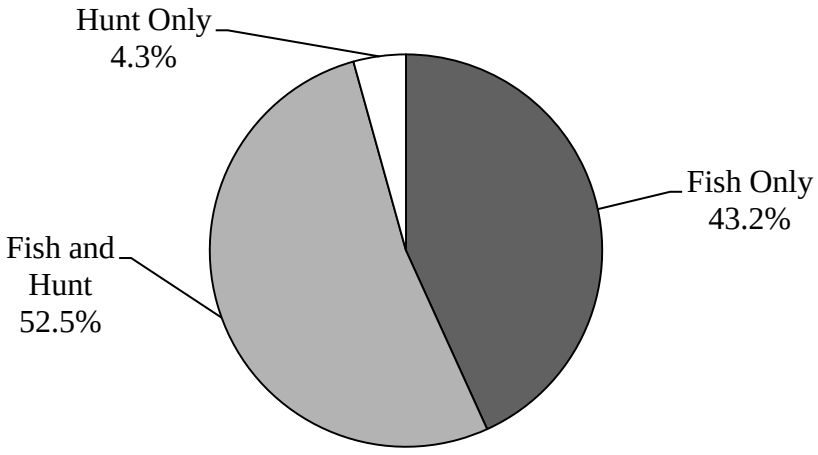
Figure 4. Age of Male Respondents (N=503)



D. Hunting and Fishing Activities

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate if they are recreational fishermen, hunters, or both. Six hundred forty-eight (648) respondents responded to this question. As illustrated in Figure 5, 43.2 percent indicated that they are only recreational fishermen, 52.5 percent indicated that they fish and hunt, and 4.3 percent indicated that they only hunt.

Figure 5. Recreational Activities of Respondents



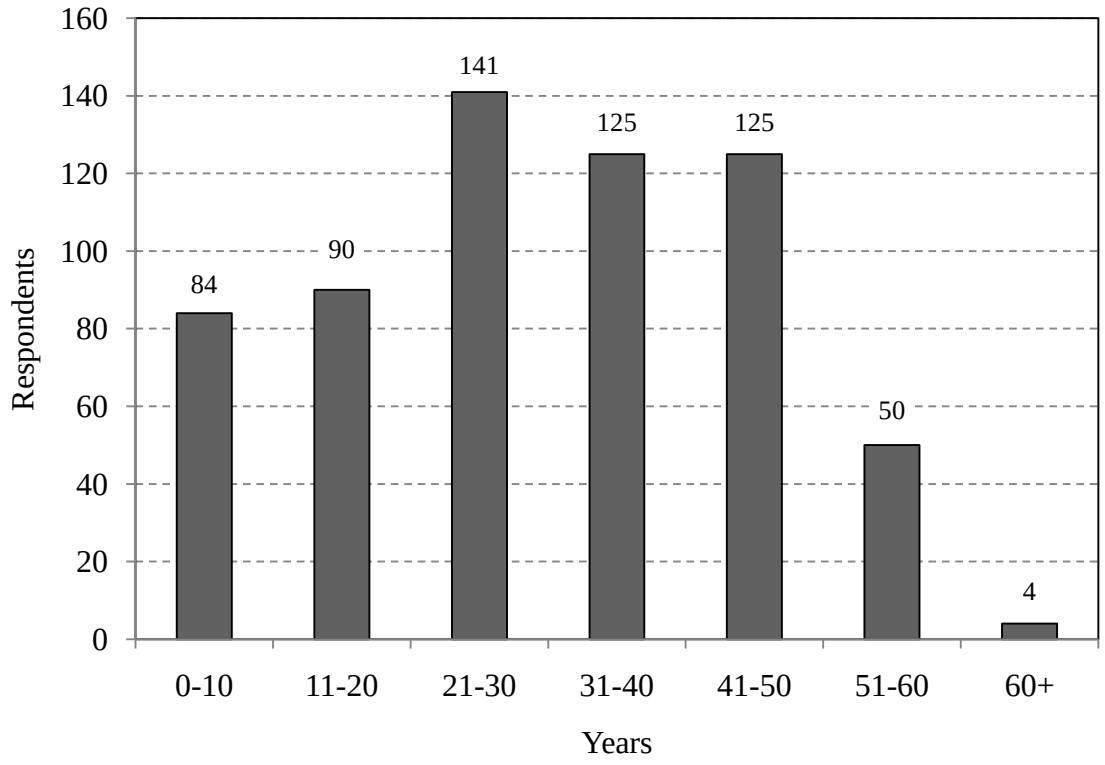
E. Number of Years Respondents Have Been Anglers

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of years they have been recreational anglers. Six hundred nineteen (619) responses were given to the question, with the average number of years being 31.8. The median number of years that respondents have been recreational anglers is 30 (Table 4). The distribution of recreational anglers, based on the number of years that they have been recreational anglers, is illustrated in Figure 6.

Table 4. Distribution of the Number of Years Respondents Have Fished

	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Years of Fishing	31.8	30	0	70

Figure 6. Years Respondents have been Recreational Anglers



F. Number of Days Fished in Saltwater in 2009

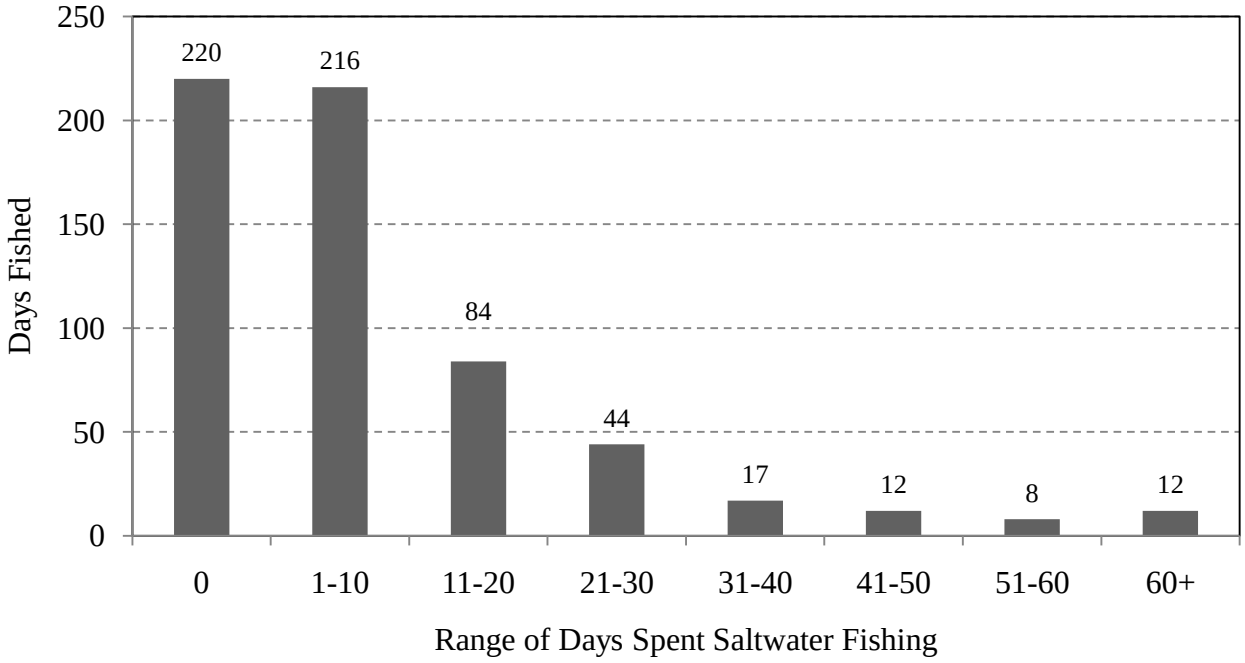
Respondents were asked to estimate the number of days they went saltwater fishing in 2009. Of the 613 respondents who answered this question, a majority (393, 64.1 percent) indicated they fished at least one day in saltwater in 2009 while a sizeable minority of over one-third (220, 35.9 percent) spent no days fishing in saltwater that year (Figure 7). All responses to the question were quantifiable.

Among those that fished at least one day in saltwater in 2009, as illustrated in Table 5, the average number of days fished was 18.1 days. Fifty-five percent (55.0 percent) of respondents who fished at least one day in saltwater in 2009 fished ten days or fewer (Figure 7). Only 20 respondents fished 50 or more days in saltwater in 2009.

Table 5. Number of Days Fished in Saltwater in 2009

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Saltwater Days Fished (All Respondents)	613	11.6	4	0	250	23.4
Saltwater Days Fished (Respondents Who Fished One or More Days	393	18.1	10	1	250	27.2

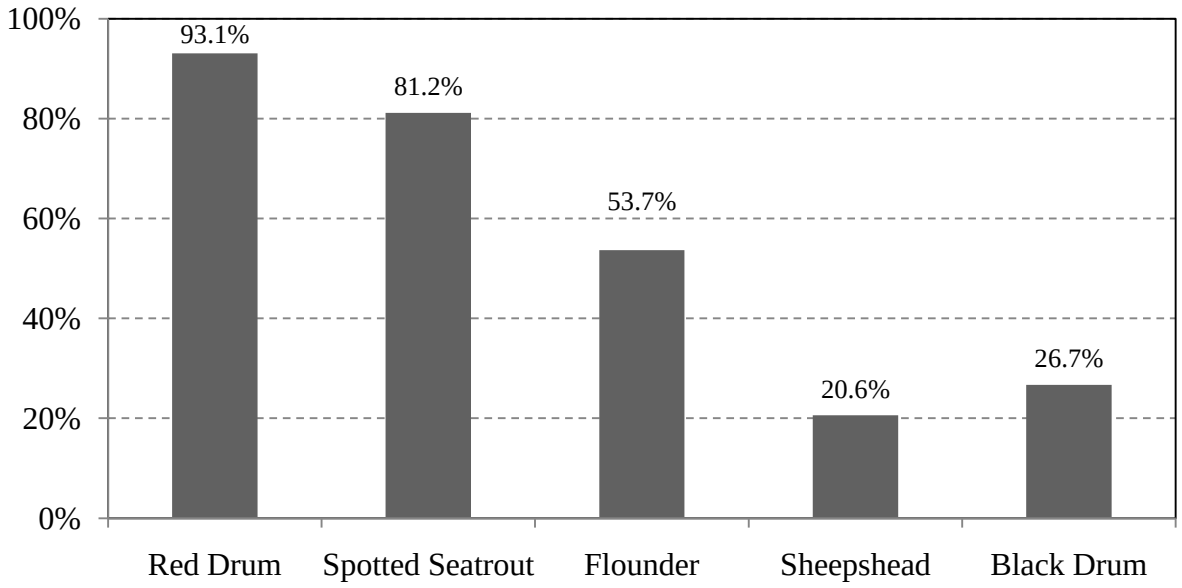
Figure 7. Number of Days Fished in Saltwater in 2009



Box 1. Species of Saltwater Fish Targeted by Anglers Who Fished At Least One Day in Saltwater in 2009

Among respondents who fished one or more days in saltwater in 2009, a majority target red drum (93.1 percent), spotted seatrout (81.2 percent), and flounder (53.7 percent) while on saltwater fishing trips. Only 20.6 percent indicated that they target sheepshead and 26.7 percent indicated that they target black drum while on saltwater fishing trips (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Species Targeted by Respondents Who Fished One or More Days in Saltwater in 2009



Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate what "other species" they target while on saltwater fishing trips (Table 6). Snappers were the most commonly listed "other species" (two "mangrove snapper", 12 "red snapper", and 14 "snapper"). Other commonly listed "other species" were amberjack, cobia, croaker, tuna, and white trout. One hundred and twenty-one (121) "other species" responses were given by respondents who fished one or more days in saltwater in 2009.

Box 1 continued…

Table 6. "Other" Marine Species Targeted: Respondents Who Fished One or More Days in Saltwater in 2009

"Other" Marine Species	Count of Responses	% of Respondents Who Fished One or More Days in SW in 2009
Amberjack	10	2.5%
Catfish	5	1.3%
Topsail Catfish	1	0.3%
Cobia	11	2.8%
Crab	6	1.5%
Croaker	9	2.3%
Alligator Garfish	1	0.3%
Gar	4	1.0%
Grouper	6	1.5%
Shark	2	0.5%
Shrimp	2	0.5%
Mangrove Snapper	2	0.5%
Red Snapper	12	3.1%
Snapper	14	3.6%
Tarpon	1	0.3%
Tuna	13	3.3%
White Trout	9	2.3%
Wahoo	3	0.8%
Marlin	1	0.3%
Dolphin	1	0.3%
Mullet	2	0.5%
Triggerfish	2	0.5%
Spanish Mackerel	1	0.3%
Offshore Species	2	0.5%
Reef Fish	1	0.3%
Total "Other" Responses	**121**	

G. Number of Days Fished in Freshwater in 2009

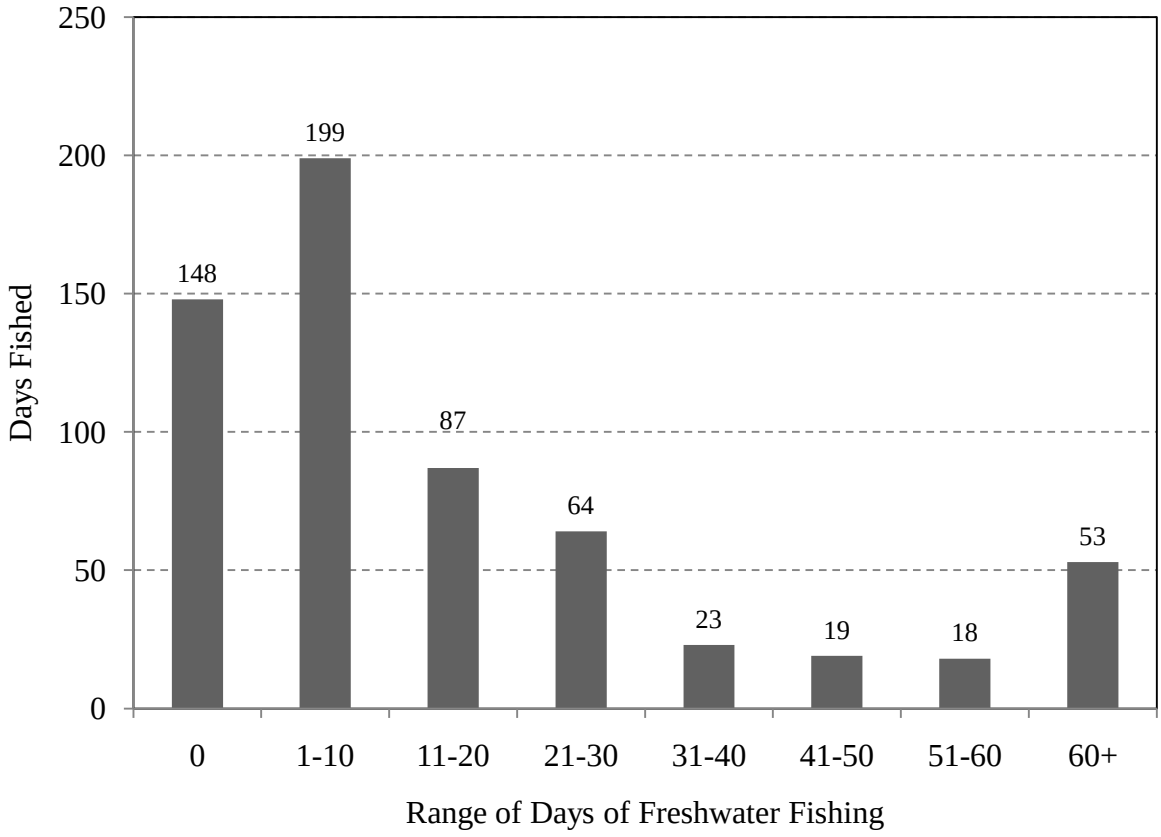
Respondents were asked to identify the number of days that they went fishing in freshwater in 2009. Of the 611 respondents who provided responses for this item, approximately three-quarters (75.8 percent) indicated that they fished at least one day in freshwater in 2009. This enumeration includes three respondents who provided unquantifiable information regarding the number of days that they fished in freshwater in 2009 (e.g., "a lot" of days). These responses were excluded from the calculation of cohort measures of central tendency and variance but were retained for later analysis of freshwater anglers. Among the remaining 463 respondents who fished in freshwater at least one day in 2009, as illustrated in Table 7, the average was 29.3 and the median was 18.

The aforementioned data suggest that the average (29.3) days fished in freshwater by respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009 is not a good representation of the number of days fished by a "typical" freshwater angler because the value is skewed larger by a small segment of respondents. Forty-three percent (43.0 percent) of the respondents who fished at least one day in freshwater in 2009 spent ten days or fewer fishing in freshwater during that year. Another 18.8 percent fished in freshwater for 11 to 20 days in 2009. Approximately one-quarter (24.4 percent) spent more than 30 days fishing in freshwater in 2009 (Figure 9).

Table 7. Number of Days Fished in Freshwater in 2009[3]

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Freshwater Days Fished (All Respondents)	611	22.2	10	0	250	35.2
Freshwater Days Fished (Respondents Who Fished One or More Days in FW)	463	29.3	18	1	250	37.7

Figure 9. Number of Days Fished in Freshwater in 2009

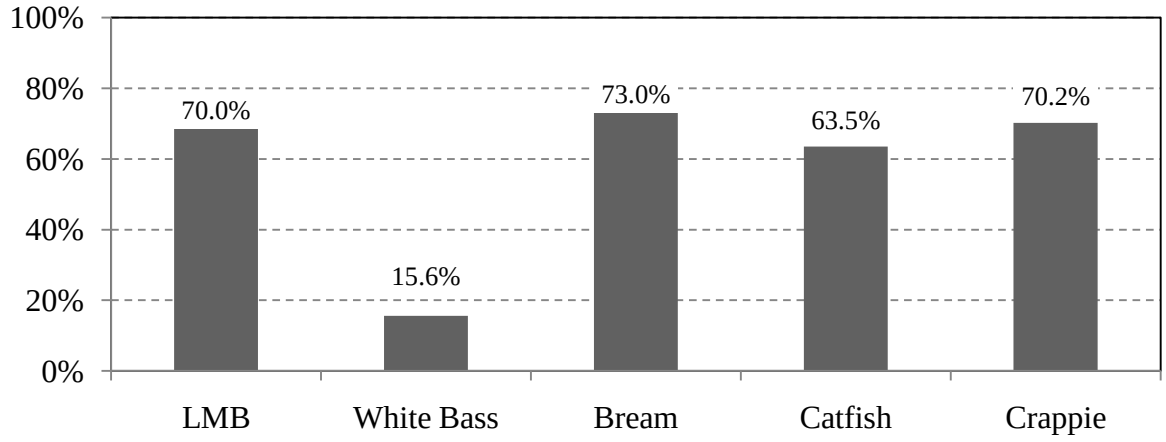


[3] Three respondents provided unquantifiable responses to the question asking them the number days spent fishing in freshwater in 2009 (e.g., "a lot"). These three responses have been excluded from the analysis presented in this table.

Box 2. Species of Freshwater Fish Targeted by Respondents Who Fished at Least One Day in Freshwater in 2009

Among respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009, there does not appear to be one species that is targeted at a significantly greater frequency than other commonly targeted species. The survey asked respondents if they target largemouth bass, white bass, bream, catfish, or crappie when they take freshwater fishing trips. Seventy percent (70.0 percent) indicated that they target largemouth bass, 15.6 percent indicated that they target white bass, 73.0 percent indicated that they target bream, 63.5 percent indicated that they target catfish, and 70.2 percent indicated that they target crappie when they fish in freshwater (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Species Targeted by Respondents Who Fished One or More Days in Freshwater in 2009



Thirty-four (34) respondents wrote in the names of other freshwater fish species that they target in addition to the six listed on the questionnaire (Table 8). Bowfin and gar were the most commonly listed species among those respondents who wrote in the names of alternative species of freshwater fish.

Box 2 continued…

Table 8. "Other" Freshwater Species Targeted: Respondents Who Fished at Least One Day in Freshwater in 2009

"Other" Freshwater Species	Count of Responses	% of Respondents Who Fished at Least One Day in Freshwater in 2009
Smallmouth Bass	1	0.2%
Bowfin (Choupic, Mudfish)	13	2.8%
Buffalo	1	0.2%
Carp	3	0.6%
Crawfish	1	0.2%
Freshwater Drum	4	0.9%
Gar	7	1.5%
Alligator Gar	1	0.2%
Shrimp	1	0.2%
Trout	2	0.4%
Total "Other" Responses	**34**	

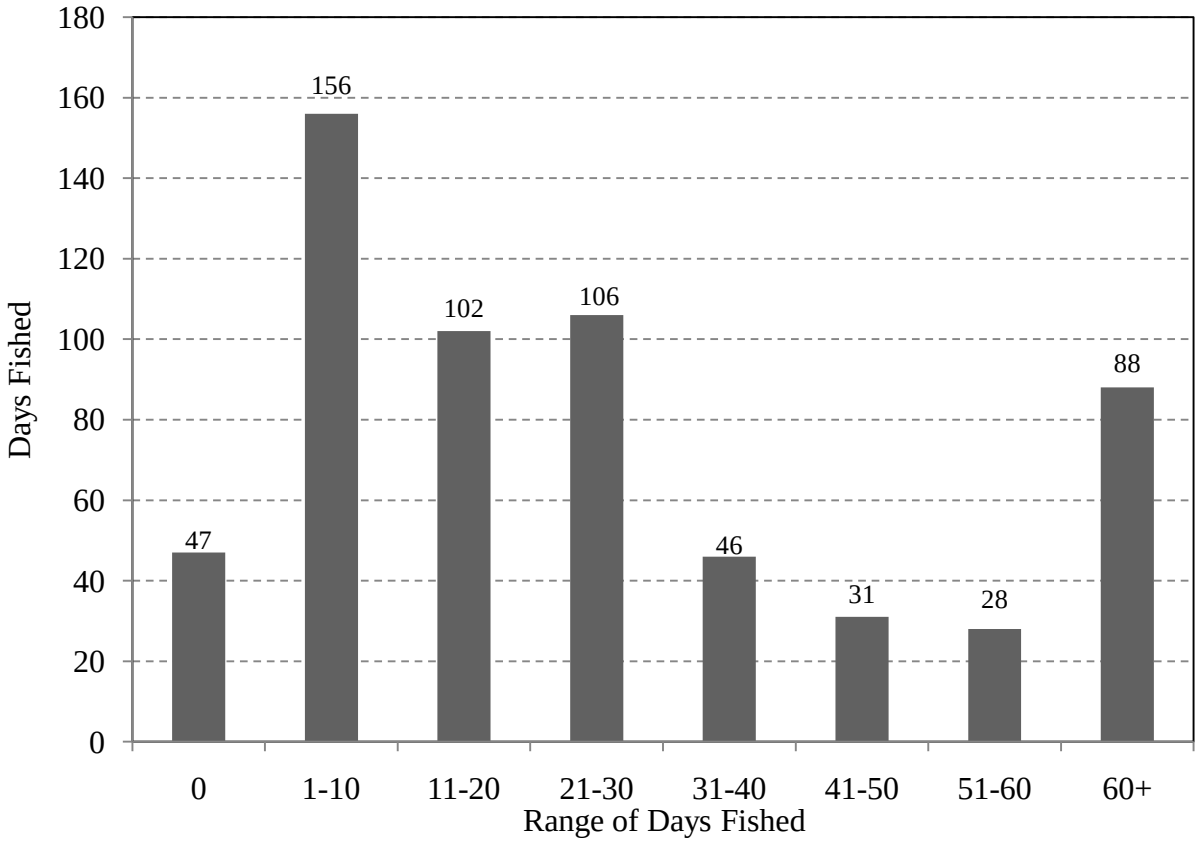
H. Number of Days Fished in 2009

The total number of days respondents spent fishing in 2009 was estimated by adding the reported number of days spent fishing in saltwater and the reported number of days spent fishing in freshwater during that year. Six hundred four (604) respondents provided quantifiable responses to both questions that facilitated the calculation of this statistic. Over 90 percent (92.2 percent) spent at least one day fishing in either freshwater or saltwater in 2009 (Figure 11). Among these respondents, the average and median number of days fished in 2009 were 36.4 and 24, respectively (Table 9). However, a standard deviation for these responses is very large (42.2 days), demonstrating a significant amount of variability in the total number of days fished by respondents who spent at least one day fishing in either freshwater or saltwater in 2009.

Table 9. Number of Days Fished in Freshwater or Saltwater in 2009[4]

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
All Days Fished (All Respondents)	604	33.5	20	0	320	41.7
All Days Fished (Respondents Who Fished One+ Days in SW or FW)	557	36.4	24	1	320	42.2

Figure 11. Number of Days Spent Saltwater or Freshwater Fishing in 2009

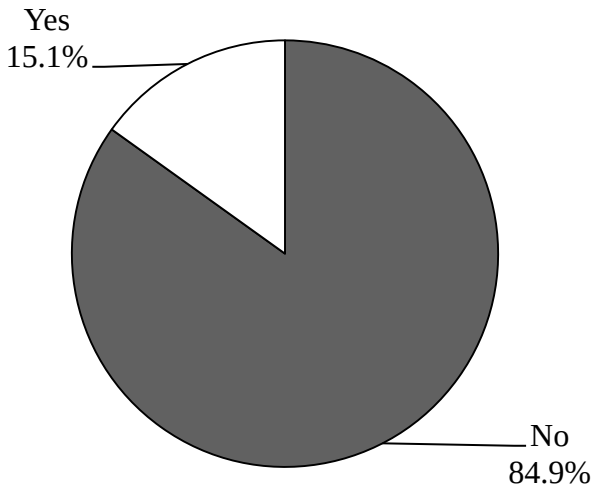


[4] Three respondents provided unquantifiable responses to the question asking them the number days spent fishing in freshwater in 2009 (e.g., "a lot"). These three responses have been excluded from the analysis presented in this table.

I. Participation in Fishing Tournaments

Six hundred twenty-eight (628) respondents responded to the question about fishing tournaments. Of these respondents, 15.1 percent indicated that they participated in fishing tournaments (Figure 12). The question did not ask respondents to indicate if the tournaments were held in freshwater or saltwater.

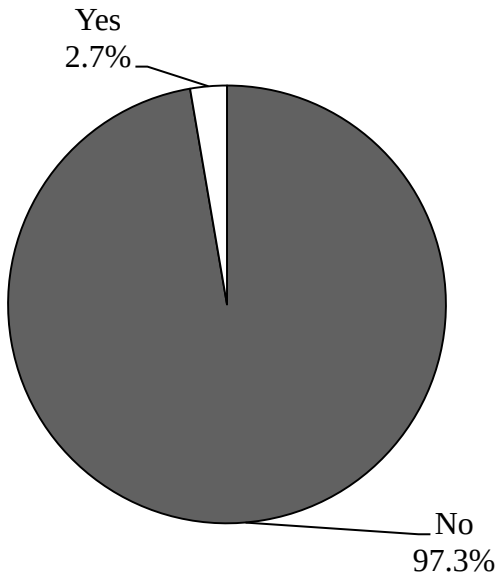
Figure 12. Respondents Who Participated in Fishing Tournaments



J. Membership in Bass Clubs

Six hundred thirty (630) respondents responded to the question about membership in bass clubs. Of these respondents, only 2.7 percent indicated that they belonged to a bass club (Figure 13). Among the respondents that indicated that they belonged to a bass club, 70.6 percent also indicated that they participated in fishing tournaments. However, the number of respondents who indicated that they belonged to a bass club is probably too small to make accurate determinations about the characteristics of this group.

Figure 13. Respondents Who Belonged to Bass Clubs



Chapter 4.

Freshwater Fishing Locations and Issues of Concern to Freshwater Anglers

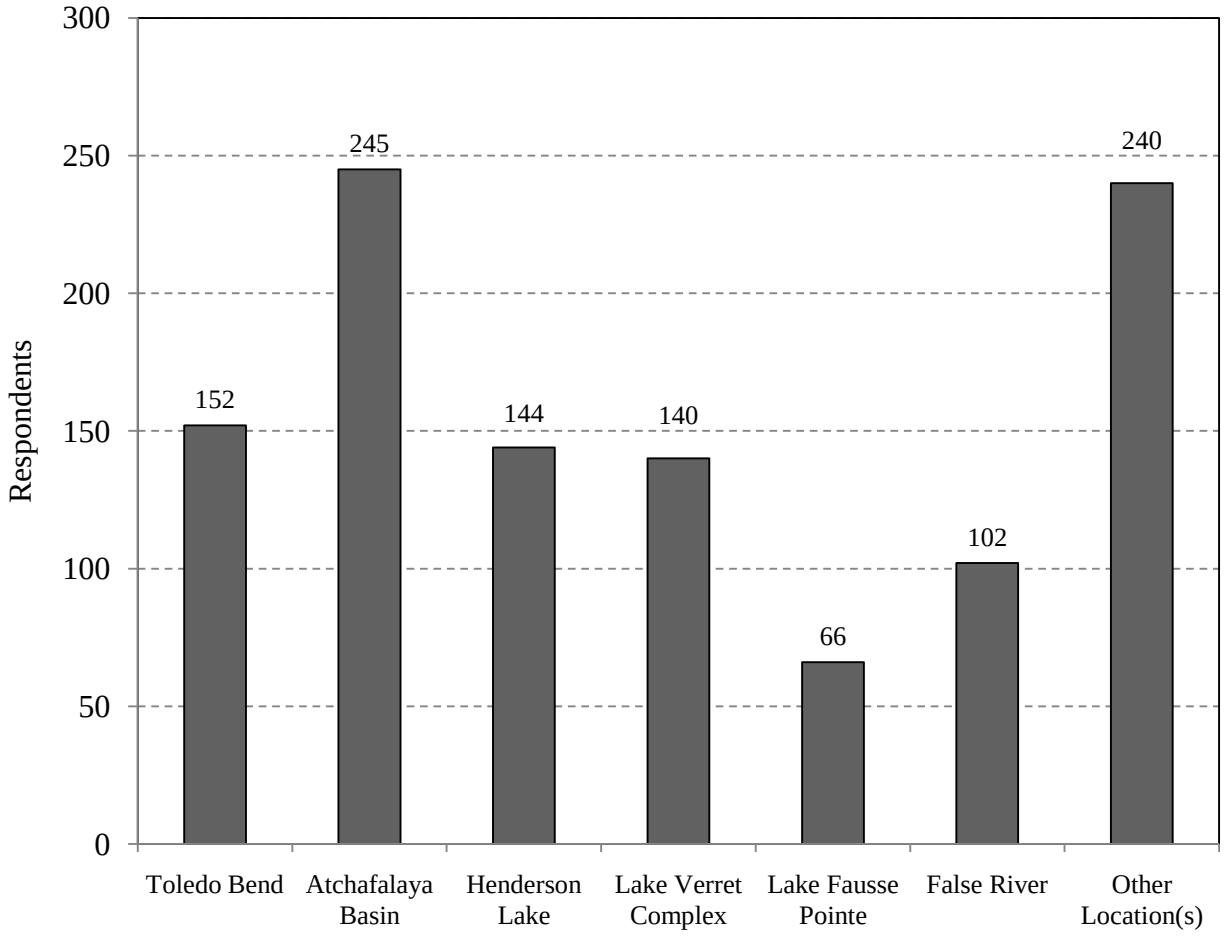
The questionnaire contained two questions that were relevant only to respondents who fished in freshwater. One was aimed at measuring what portion of the respondents fished in six specific freshwater fishing spots in South-Central Louisiana. The other sought to estimate the degree of concern among respondents for several topics of importance among Louisiana freshwater anglers.

A. Freshwater Fishing Locations Utilized by Survey Respondents

Respondents were asked if they fished in six specific freshwater waterbodies in 2009. These waterbodies were selected by LDWF Inland Fisheries Division staff during the questionnaire design process because they are widely-used by freshwater anglers in the region or are areas of special concern to fisheries managers. The waterbodies were: Toledo Bend, the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex, Lake Fausse Pointe, and False River. Respondents were also provided with space to allow them to write in the name of other areas or waterbodies where they fish recreationally.

Among the 379 respondents who provided responses to this question, the Atchafalaya Basin was the waterbody that was most widely used, 64.6 percent of whom reported fishing in the area (Figure 14). Toledo Bend (40.1 percent), Henderson Lake (38.0 percent), and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex (36.9 percent) were also widely utilized.

Figure 14. Freshwater Locations Fished by Respondents



B. Issues of Concern to Freshwater Anglers

Survey respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009 (identified as "freshwater anglers") were asked to indicate their degree of concern regarding six issues selected by LDWF Inland Fisheries staff as matters of common public concern. The issues were: improving aquatic weed control, increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps, cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana's waterways, resolving issues related to landowners and fishing access, controlling the silver carp population, and providing more information to anglers, such as lake maps with locations of boat ramps and fishing piers.

When responding to issues, respondents were asked to rate their concern about the issue on a scale of one to five. In the survey one was defined as "no concern", two was defined as "low concern", three was defined as "medium concern", four was defined as "high concern", and five was defined as "highest concern".

Relative degrees of concern may be assessed by examining the percent of respondents indicating the various levels of concern (Figure 15) or by estimating the average level of concern for each specific issue (Table 10). Generally, the higher the average level of concern, the more concerned respondents are about the issue.

By both of these measures, "cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana's waterways" was the single issue of highest concern among freshwater anglers. The issue had the highest average level of concern (4.17) and the highest percent of respondents (75.7 percent) who marked it as a matter of "high concern" or "highest concern". Chi-squared analysis suggests that the pattern of responses for "cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana's waterways" is statistically different than the pattern for every other issue: "improving aquatic weed control" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 48.35$); "controlling silver carp" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 56.65$); "landowner and fishing access issues" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 76.30$); "providing information to anglers" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 83.37$); and "increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 167.48$).

Figure 15. Degree of Concern Regarding Issues Faced by Freshwater Anglers in Louisiana

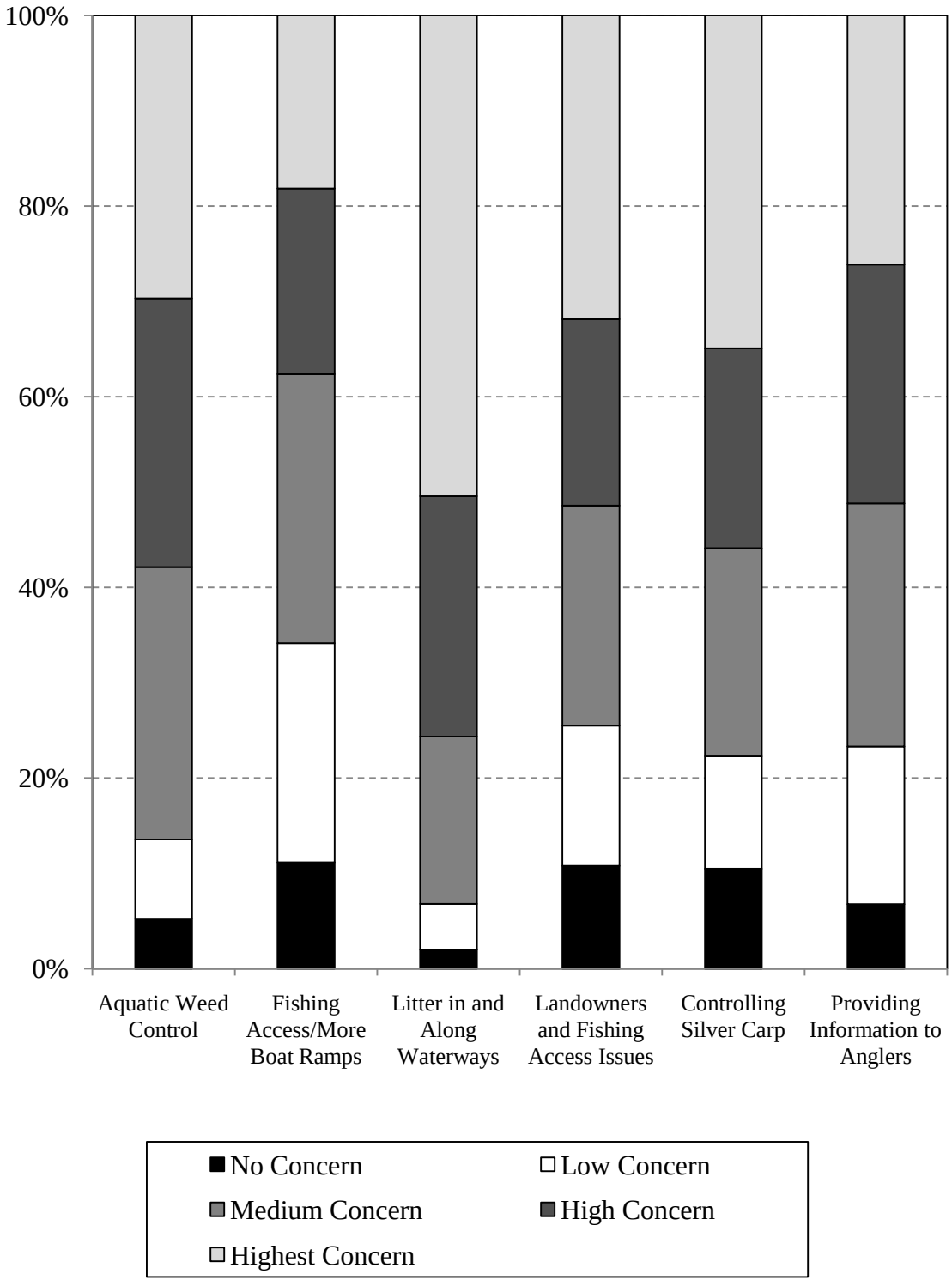


Table 10. Degree of Concern Regarding Issues Faced by Freshwater Anglers in Louisiana
(Scale of 1-5: 1 = "No Concern", 5 = "Highest Concern")

	N (responses)	Average	Percent Indicating "High" and "Highest" Level of Concern
Aquatic Weed Control	458	3.7	57.9%
Fishing Access/More Boat Ramps	457	3.1	37.6%
Litter in and along Waterways	456	4.2	75.7%
Landowners and Fishing Access Issues	455	3.5	51.4%
Controlling Silver Carp	458	3.6	55.9%
Providing Information to Anglers	459	3.5	51.2%

"Improving aquatic weed control" had the second highest average level of concern (3.69) among the six items presented in this question. Fifty-eight percent (57.9 percent) of the respondents marked this issue as a matter of "high" or "highest concern". The pattern of responses for this item was significantly different from the patterns of responses for the remaining items with lower average levels of concern: "controlling silver carp" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = 21.73); "landowner and fishing access issues" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ =27.05); "providing information to anglers" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = 16.15); and "increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = 61.29).

"Controlling silver carp" had the third highest average level of concern (3.6) and the third highest percentage of respondents giving it a "high" or "highest" level of concern rating (55.9 percent). The pattern of responses of "controlling silver carp" was significantly different from two of the three remaining items with lower average levels of concern ("providing information to anglers" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = 16.14) and "increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = 44.78)). The pattern of responses for this item, however, was not statistically different from the pattern given for "landowner and fishing access issues" ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ =2.52).

By the two measures, two issues, "landowner and fishing access issues" and "providing information to anglers", could be said to be roughly equally ranked as matters of concern among survey respondents. The estimated average levels of concern for the two items were identical (3.5). Roughly 51 percent of the respondents rated each of these items as matters of "high" or "highest" concern. Further, judging by chi-squared analysis, the pattern of responses for these items were not statistically different ($\chi^2_{(df = 5;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 10.92$).

The issue for which respondents apparently indicated the lowest degree of concern was "increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps". This item had the lowest average level of concern (3.1) and the lowest percentage of respondents marking the issue as a matter of "high"" or "highest" concern (37.6 percent). Thirty-four (34.1) percent marked it as a matter of "low" or "no concern".

C. Respondents' Written Comments on Matters of Concern to Freshwater Anglers

Respondents were given the opportunity to write out issues that they felt are important to freshwater recreational fishing in Louisiana. Three hundred fifty-one (351) respondents provided a written response to this question in the survey. These responses can be found in Appendix 1.

D. Respondents' General Comments and Suggestions

In the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to give general comments or suggestions. One hundred eighty-seven (187) of 663 respondents (28.2 percent) provided a written response to this portion of the survey. Their comments can be found in Appendix 2.

SECTION 3.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Bag Limit Regulations

For the Atchafalaya Basing, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

Chapter 5.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Bag Limit Regulations in the Atchafalaya Basin

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries currently enforces a daily bag limit of 10 largemouth or spotted bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. This regulation restricts the number of fish of these species that anglers in that area may keep and have in their possession. One of the primary objectives of this survey was to assess the proportion of users and potential users who wish to alter or retain the current regulatory structure.

Respondents were presented with a question that asked them to identify the alternative that they would prefer if they were in charge of setting the daily bag limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. The question contained four multiple choice responses: "no opinion", "keep the 10-fish daily limit", "change the daily limit", and "other". Respondents who selected the "change the daily limit" were asked to write in a specific alternative number for the daily bag limit. Those who marked the "other" alternative were asked to specify their preferences on the questionnaire.

To assist LDWF managers in their understanding of differences in perspectives among different segments of the fishing population, respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Atchafalaya Basin anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Atchafalaya Basin anglers" includes those respondents who indicated that they fished in the Atchafalaya Basin in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 16. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin

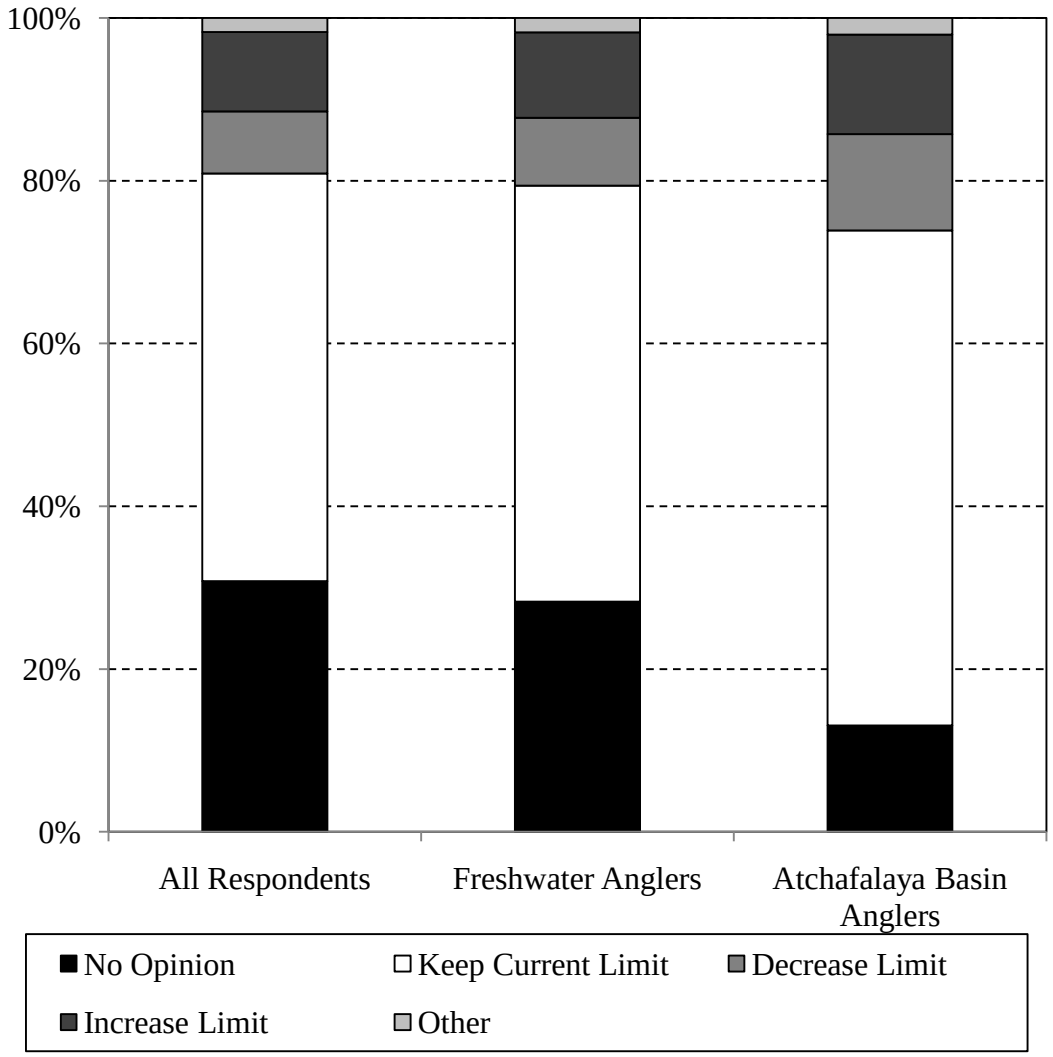
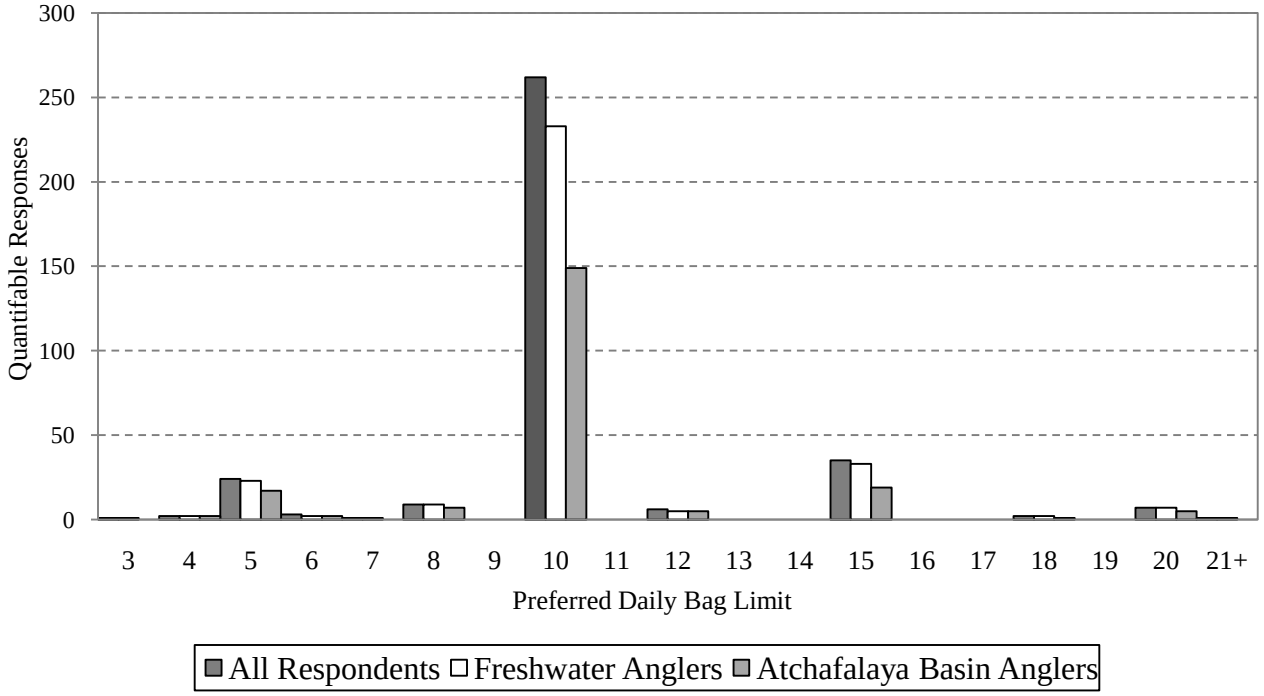


Table 11. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in Atchafalaya Basin

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	Decrease Limit	Increase Limit	Other
All Respondents	523	30.8%	50.1%	7.6%	9.8%	1.7%
Freshwater Anglers	456	28.3%	51.1%	8.3%	10.5%	1.8%
Atchafalaya Basin Anglers	245	13.1%	60.8%	11.8%	12.2%	2.0%

Figure 17. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin by Survey Respondents



A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred twenty-three (523) out of 663 respondents indicated their preference for the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin. About half of these respondents (50.1 percent) indicated a preference to keep the current bag limit and 30.8 percent indicated that they had no opinion. Approximately eight percent (7.6 percent) indicated that they preferred a decrease in the bass bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin. About 10 percent (9.8 percent) preferred an increase. Almost two percent (1.7 percent) proposed a different alternative to the current bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 16 and Table 11).

Three hundred fifty-three (353) respondents provided quantifiable responses (i.e., can be converted to a specific number) pertaining to their preferred daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 17). About three-quarters (74.2 percent) of those who provided quantifiable

responses preferred a daily bag limit of 10 bass. The average preferred daily bag limit among these respondents was 10.3 bass per day, which, when rounded to the nearest whole number of fish, is the current daily bag limit.

Survey respondents presented relatively little interest in specific changes to the daily bag limit for bass in this area. When the percentage of respondents who preferred to keep the current bag limit (50.1 percent) are combined with the percent marking the "no opinion" option (30.8 percent), the resulting sum (80.9 percent) indicates that about four out of five respondents did not indicate a preference to change the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin.

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

Four hundred fifty-six (456) freshwater anglers provided responses to the question soliciting respondents' preferences for bass daily bag limits in the Atchafalaya Basin. Approximately one-quarter (28.3 percent) indicated "no opinion". About one-half (51.1 percent) preferred to keep the current 10-fish limit. The remainder of responses by freshwater anglers were comprised of 8.3 percent that wanted the daily bass bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin to be decreased, 10.5 percent that wanted the bag limit increased, and 1.8 percent that proposed a different alternative to the current bag limit (Figure 16 and Table 11).

C. Atchafalaya Basin Anglers' Preferences

Two hundred forty-five (245) of 663 respondents indicated that they fished in the Atchafalaya Basin and responded to the question seeking their preferences regarding the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin. A significant majority of Atchafalaya Basin anglers (60.8 percent) indicated that they did not want the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin to be changed. Further, the second most common response among Atchafalaya Basin anglers was "no opinion" (13.1 percent), showing that the portion of Atchafalaya Basin anglers who

wanted a change in the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin was only 26.1 percent. The responses indicating a preference for change were 11.8 percent preferring a decrease in the bag limit, 12.2 percent preferring an increase in the bag limit, and 2.0 percent indicating a preference for a different alternative to the current daily bag limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 16 and Table 11).

Two hundred seven (207) Atchafalaya Basin anglers gave quantifiable responses (i.e., can be converted to a specific number) related to their preferred bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 17). A majority (72.0 percent) preferred a daily bag limit of 10 bass. The average preferred daily bag limit among those Atchafalaya Basin anglers who provided a quantifiable bag limit preference was 10.3 bass per day.

The pattern of responses of Atchafalaya Basin anglers were statically different from the responses of all respondents for bag limits in the Atchafalaya Basin ($\chi^2 = 37.088$). Compared to respondents overall, smaller percentages of Atchafalaya Basin anglers marked the "no opinion" option and larger percentages marked the "keep the current limit", "decrease the bag limit", and "increase the bag limit" alternatives.

As with respondents overall, there appears to be relatively little interest among Atchafalaya Basin anglers in altering the current daily bag limit. Combining the percentage having "no opinion" (13.1 percent) and the percentage preferring "no change" (60.8 percent) suggests that nearly three-quarters (73.9 percent) of Atchafalaya Basin anglers did not indicate a preference for a change to the current bass bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin

Among the minority of respondents who preferred decreasing the bass daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin, most preferred lowering the limit to five fish per day. For each of the

respondent sectors examined in this section (all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Atchafalaya Basin anglers), the average preferred bag limit among the minority who want a decreased limit was 5.7 fish per day (Table 12).

Table 12. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in Atchafalaya Basin by Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	40	5.7	5	5
Freshwater Anglers	38	5.7	5	5
Atchafalaya Basin Anglers	29	5.7	5	5

† Only 7.6 percent of all respondents, 8.3 percent of freshwater anglers, and 11.8 percent of Atchafalaya Basin anglers preferred a decrease in the daily bag limit.

E. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin

Among the minority of survey respondents who preferred increasing the daily bag limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, most preferred raising the daily bag limit to 15 fish per day. The average preferred alternative among those who preferred a larger bag limit was 15.6 fish per day and the median was 15 fish per day (Table 13). Similar figures were observed for freshwater anglers and Atchafalaya Basin anglers.

Table 13. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in Atchafalaya Basin by Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	51	15.6	15	15
Freshwater Anglers	48	15.8	15	15
Atchafalaya Basin Anglers	30	15.4	15	15

† Only 9.8 percent of all respondents, 10.5 percent of freshwater anglers, and 12.2 percent of Atchafalaya Basin anglers preferred an increase in the daily bag limit.

Chapter 6.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Bag Limit Regulations in Henderson Lake

As in the Atchafalaya Basin, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has set a daily bag limit of 10 largemouth or spotted bass in Henderson Lake. LDWF Inland Fisheries managers wished to assess the proportion of users and potential users who wish to alter or retain the current regulatory structure in this area.

Respondents were presented with a question that asked them to identify the alternative that they would prefer if they were in charge of setting the daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake. The structure and form of this question was identical to the question related to the Atchafalaya Basin.

Respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Henderson Lake anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Henderson Lake anglers" includes those respondents who indicated that they fished in Henderson Lake in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 18. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in Henderson Lake

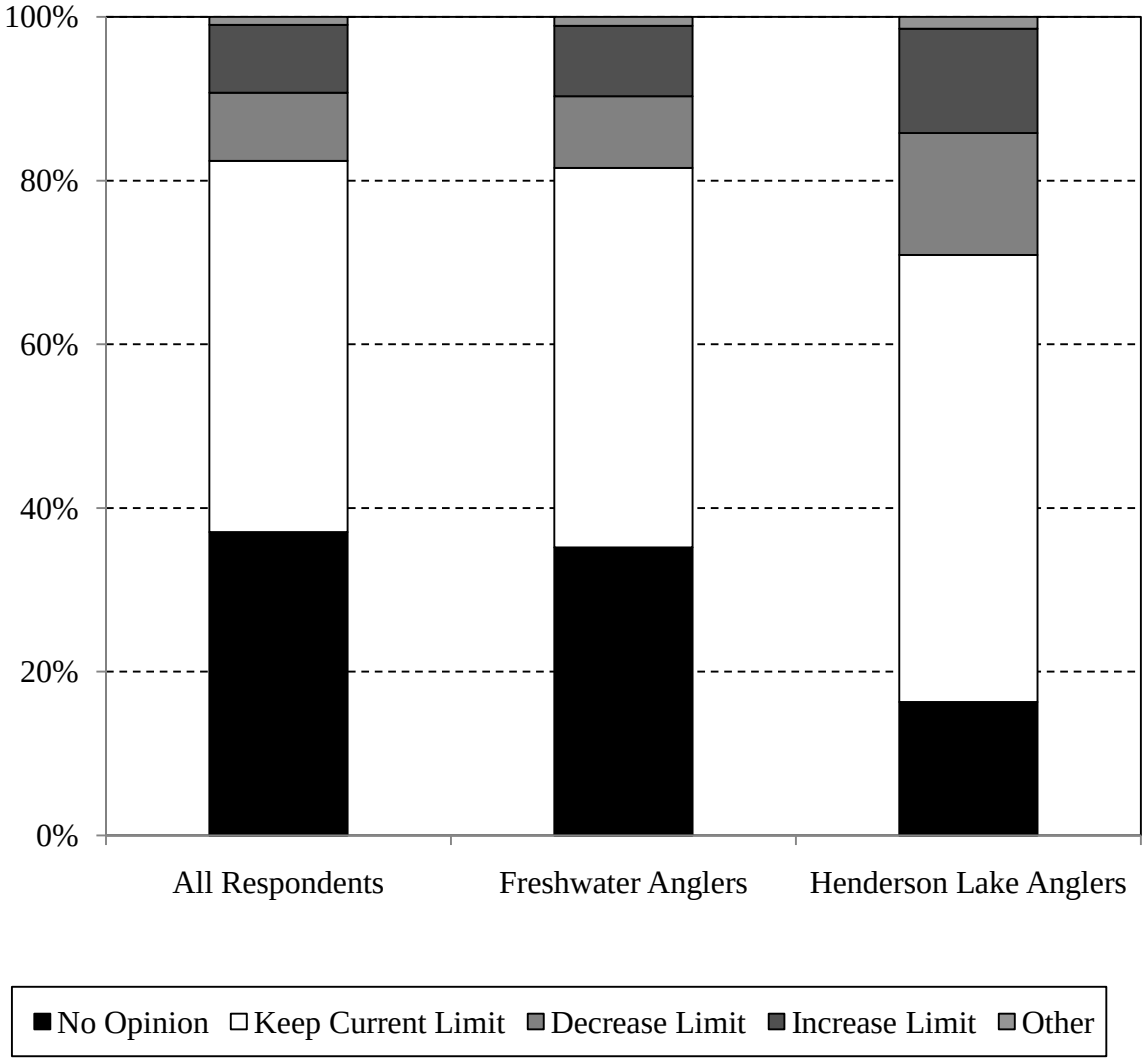
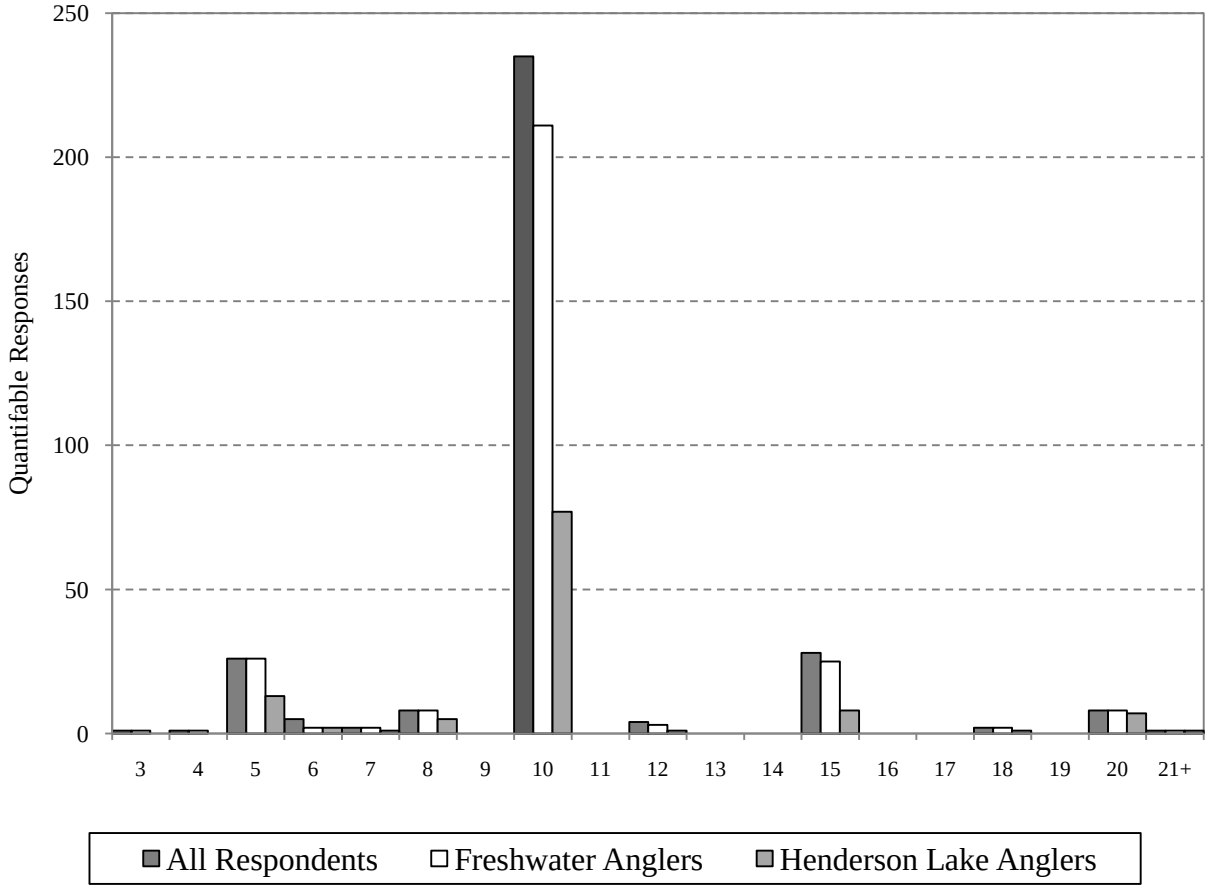


Table 14. Preferences for Bass Bag Limits in Henderson Lake

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	Decrease Limit	Increase Limit	Other
All Respondents	518	37.1%	45.4%	8.3%	8.3%	1.0%
Freshwater Anglers	455	35.2%	46.4%	8.8%	8.6%	1.1%
Henderson Lake Anglers	141	16.3%	54.6%	14.9%	12.8%	1.4%

Figure 19. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in Henderson Lake by Survey Respondents



A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred eighteen (518) of 663 respondents indicated their preference for the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake. Among these respondents, 45.4 percent preferred to keep the current bag limit and 37.1 percent had no opinion. Eight percent (8.3 percent) indicated that they would prefer the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake be decreased and 8.3 percent prefer it be increased. One percent (1.0 percent) proposed another preferred alternative to the current bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake (Figure 18 and Table 14).

Three hundred twenty-one (321) respondents gave quantifiable answers (i.e., can be converted to a specific number) regarding their preferred daily bag limit (Figure 19). Among these respondents, the average preferred daily bag limit was 10.2 bass per day.

There appears to be relatively little interest in changing the current 10-fish daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake among all survey respondents. Combining the percentage of respondents who marked "no opinion" (37.1 percent) and "keep the current bag limit" (45.4 percent) alternatives suggests that 82.5 percent did not indicate a preference for change in the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake.

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

Almost half of freshwater anglers (46.4 percent) preferred keeping the current daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake. Further, only 18.5 percent of freshwater anglers indicated a preference to change the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake, with 8.8 percent wanting the limit decreased, 8.6 percent wanting the limit increased, and 1.1 percent proposing another alternative to the current limit. Over one-third (35.2 percent) of freshwater anglers did not have an opinion regarding the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake (Figure 18 and Table 14).

Two hundred ninety (290) freshwater anglers provided a quantifiable response (i.e., can be converted to a specific number) for their preferred daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake (Figure 19). Among these respondents, the average preferred daily bag limit was 10.2 bass per day.

C. Henderson Lake Anglers' Preferences

Over half (54.6 percent) of Henderson Lake anglers indicated that they prefer to keep the current bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake. Approximately one-sixth (16.3 percent) of Henderson Lake anglers marked the "no opinion" alternative. Approximately 15 percent (14.9

percent) preferred a decrease in the bag limit and approximately 13 percent (12.8 percent) preferred an increase in the bag limit. About one percent (1.4 percent) indicated a preference for another alternative to the current daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake (Figure 18 and Table 14).

One hundred sixteen (116) Henderson Lake anglers provided a quantifiable response (i.e., can be converted to a specific number) for the daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake. For this group, the average preferred bag limit (10.4 fish) was equivalent to the current daily bag limit.

Chi-squared statistics show that the responses of Henderson Lake anglers are statistically different from the responses of all respondents for bass bag limits in Henderson Lake (χ^2 = 28.791). A notably smaller portion of Henderson Lake anglers marked the "no opinion" alternative and a larger portion marked the "keep the current limit" alternative.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit in Henderson Lake

A preference for decreasing the daily bag limit for bass in Henderson Lake was expressed by a minority of survey respondents. Among this relatively small portion of the fishing population, the average preferred bag limit was 5.7 fish per day and the median was five fish per day (Table 15).

Table 15. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in Henderson Lake by Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	43	5.7	5	5
Freshwater Anglers	40	5.7	5	5
Henderson Lake Anglers	21	5.9	5	5

† Only 8.3 percent of all respondents, 8.8 percent of freshwater anglers, and 14.9 percent of Henderson Lake anglers preferred a decrease in the daily bag limit.

E. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit in Henderson Lake

As previously demonstrated, relatively small portions of survey respondents indicated a preference for increasing the bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake. Within this minority, the median preferred alternative bag limit was 15 fish per day (Table 16). The average preferred alternative daily bag limit was 16.0 fish per day among all respondents, 16.2 fish per day among freshwater anglers, and 17.5 fish per day among Henderson Lake anglers.

Table 16. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in Henderson Lake by Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	43	16.0	15	15
Freshwater Anglers	39	16.2	15	15
Henderson Lake Anglers	18	17.5	15	15

† Only 8.3 percent of all respondents, 8.6 percent of freshwater anglers, and 12.8 percent of Henderson Lake anglers preferred an increase in the daily bag limit.

Chapter 7.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Bag Limit Regulations in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has set a daily bag limit of 10 largemouth or spotted bass in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex (referred to as "the Lake Verret Complex"). This regulation is identical to the bass bag limit regulation for the Atchafalaya Basin and Henderson Lake. LDWF managers wanted to understand the perspectives of users and potential users of the Lake Verret Complex regarding bass daily bag limits in this complex.

Respondents were presented with a question that asked them to identify the alternative that they would prefer if they were in charge of setting the daily bag limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. The structure and form of this question was identical to those related to the Atchafalaya Basin and Henderson Lake.

Respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Lake Verret Complex anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Lake Verret Complex anglers" includes those respondents who indicated that they fished in the Lake Verret Complex in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 20. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex

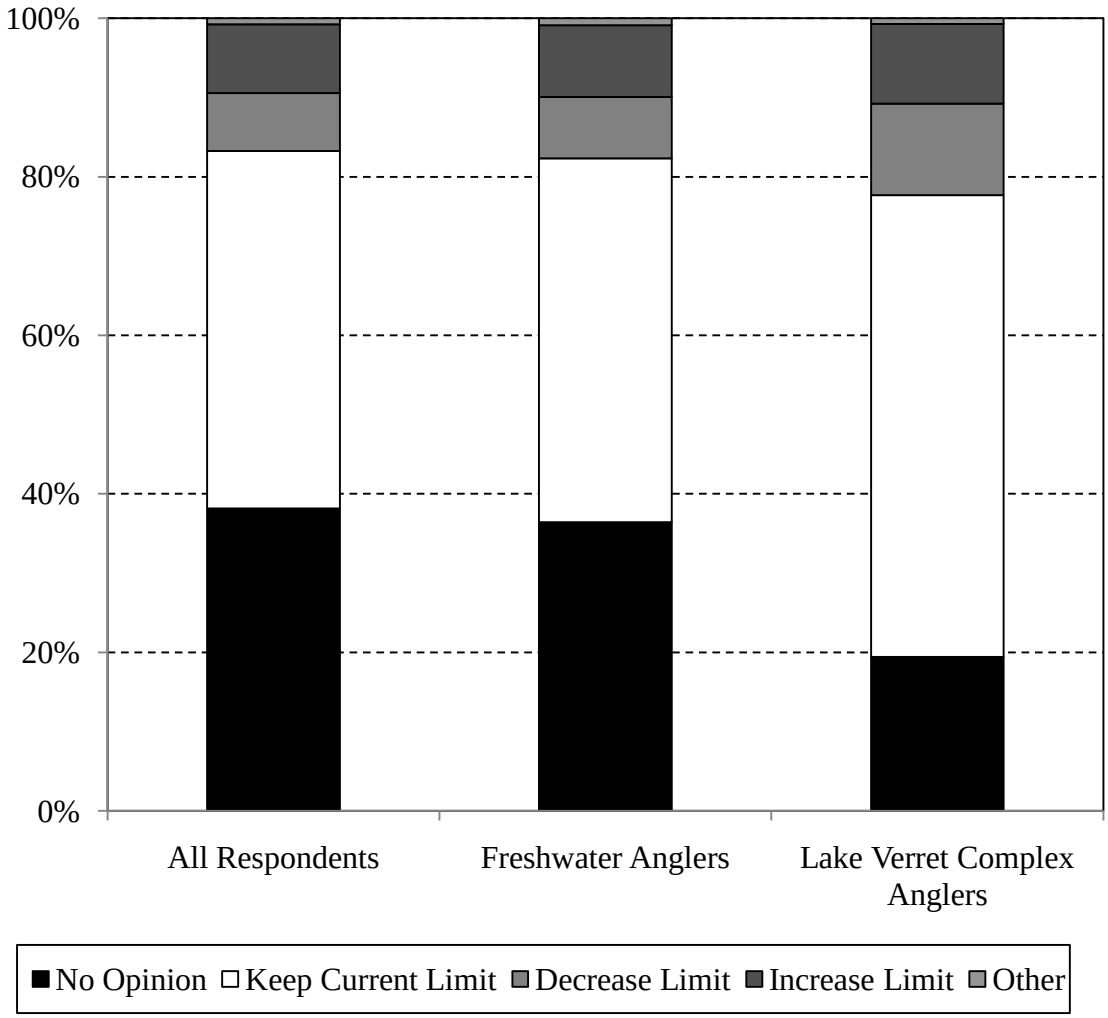
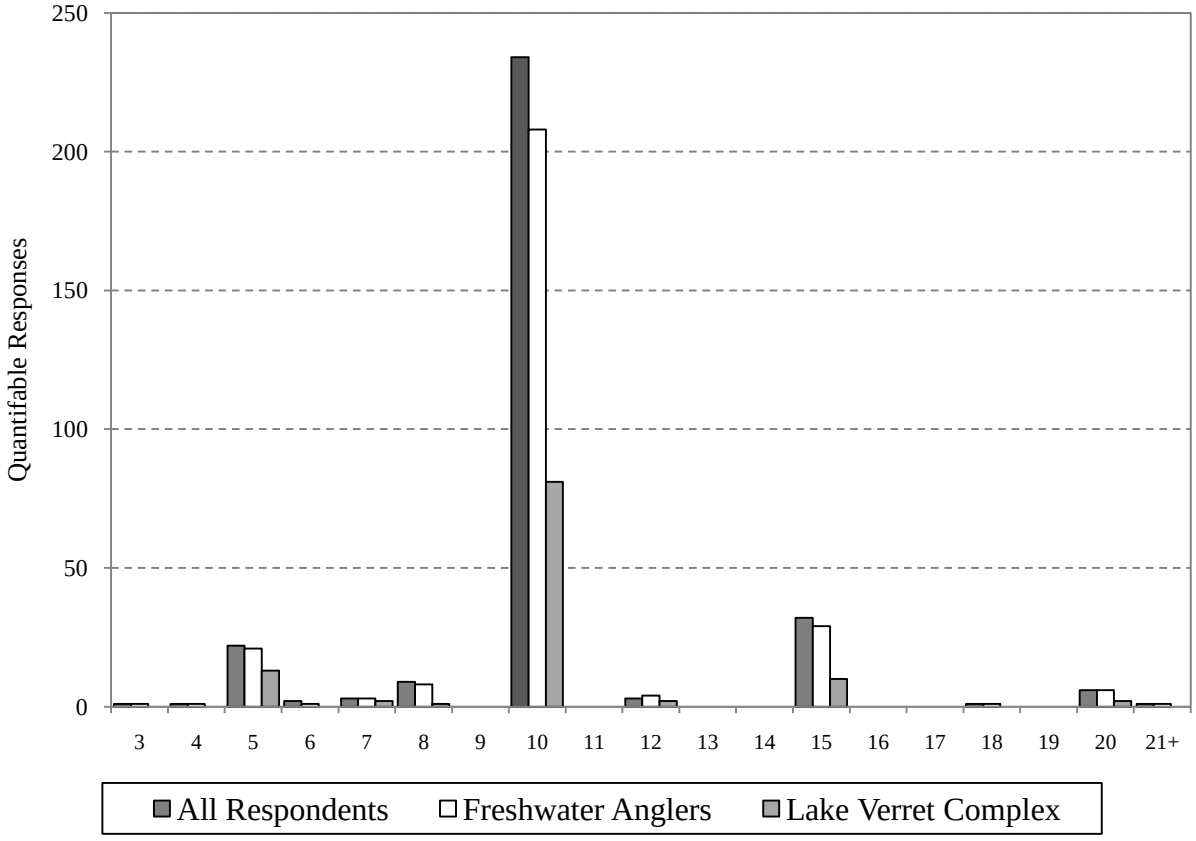


Table 17. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	Decrease Limit	Increase Limit	Other
All Respondents	519	38.2%	45.1%	7.3%	8.7%	0.8%
Freshwater Anglers	453	36.4%	45.9%	7.7%	9.1%	0.9%
Lake Verret Complex Anglers	139	19.4%	58.3%	11.5%	10.1%	0.7%

Figure 21. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex by Survey Respondents



A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred nineteen (519) out of 663 respondents indicated their preference for the bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex. Among these respondents, 45.1 percent preferred to keep the current bag limit and 38.2 percent had no opinion. Seven percent (7.3 percent) of survey respondents indicated a preference for a decrease in the bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex while 8.7 percent preferred an increase. About one percent (0.8 percent) proposed a different alternative to the current bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 20 and Table 17).

Three hundred fifteen (315) respondents provided quantifiable responses indicating their preferences for a bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret complex (Figure 21). The average preferred daily bag limit among all respondents was 10.3 fish per day.

There appears to be relatively little interest among all respondents in changing the bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex. Combining the 45.1 percent of respondents who preferred to retain the current limit and the 38.2 percent who marked "no opinion" suggests that 83.2 percent of survey respondents did not indicate a preference for a change in the bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex.

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

Almost half of freshwater anglers (45.9 percent) preferred keeping the current daily bag limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Over a third (36.4 percent) had "no opinion". About eight percent (7.7 percent) of freshwater anglers preferred a decrease in the bass daily bag limit and 9.1 percent preferred an increase (Figure 20 and Table 17).

Two hundred eighty-four (284) freshwater anglers provided quantifiable responses detailing their preferences for the bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret complex (Figure 21). The average daily bag limit among these respondents was 10.3 fish per day.

C. Lake Verret Complex Anglers' Preferences

A majority (58.3 percent) of Lake Verret Complex anglers indicated that they wanted to keep the current bass daily bag limit in the Lake Verret Complex. About one-fifth (19.4 percent) marked the "no opinion" alternative. About 12 percent (11.5 percent) preferred a decrease in the bass daily bag limit and 10.1 percent preferred an increase. About one percent (0.7 percent) preferred some other alternative to the current daily bag limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 20 and Table 17).

Chi-squared statistics show that the responses of Lake Verret Complex anglers are statistically different from the responses of all respondents ($\chi^2_{(df = 4;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 31.212$) for bass daily bag limits in the Lake Verret Complex. Compared to all respondents, a smaller portion of Lake Verret Complex anglers marked the "no opinion" alternative, a larger proportion marked the "keep the current limit" alternative, and larger percentages preferred to increase the daily bag limit or decrease the daily bag limit.

One hundred eleven (111) Lake Verret Complex anglers gave quantifiable responses pertaining to their preferences for a bass daily bag limit (Figure 21). Their average preferred bass daily bag limit was 10.2 fish per day.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex

Among the minority of respondents who preferred a decrease in the daily bag limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex, the most commonly preferred daily bag limit, among all groups, was five fish. The average preferred limit among all respondents was six (5.8) fish per day (Table 18).

Table 18. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex by Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	38	5.8	5	5
Freshwater Anglers	35	5.8	5	5
Lake Verret Complex Anglers	16	5.4	5	5

† Only 7.3 percent of all respondents, 7.7 percent of freshwater anglers, and 11.5 percent of Henderson Lake anglers preferred a decrease in the daily bag limit.

E. Preferred Alternative Bass Daily Bag Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex

A fairly small portion of survey respondents indicated a preference for increasing the daily bag limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Among all respondents who preferred to increase the limit, the average preferred limit was 15.7 fish (Table 19). The most commonly preferred increased limit, among all groups, was 15 fish per day.

Table 19. Preferred Bass Daily Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex by Respondents Who Prefer Increasing the Bag Limit†

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	45	15.7	15	15
Freshwater Anglers	41	15.9	15	15
Lake Verret Complex Anglers	14	15.3	15	15

† Only 8.7 percent of all respondents, 9.1 percent of freshwater anglers, and 10.1 percent of Lake Verret Complex anglers preferred an increase in the daily bag limit.

SECTION 4.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Minimum Size Limit Regulations

For the Atchafalaya Basing, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

Chapter 8.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Size Limit Regulations in the Atchafalaya Basin

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) currently enforces a 14 inch minimum size limit for keeping largemouth and spotted bass caught in the Atchafalaya Basin.

LDWF Inland Fisheries Division managers wished to assess the fishing public's perspectives on this regulatory measure within the Atchafalaya Basin. To measure their preferences related to minimum size limits for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, respondents were asked which change to the minimum size limit they would make in the Atchafalaya Basin if they were in charge of fisheries management in the area. They were presented six options in a multiple-choice question: no opinion; keep the current minimum size limit; have no size limit at all; set a new minimum size limit; create a protected slot limit; or give a different alternative. Respondents who preferred to change the minimum size limit were asked to specify their preferred minimum size limit. Respondents who indicated a preference for a protected slot limit were asked to specify the upper and lower bounds they would set. (A protected slot limit would ban the harvest of bass of a length between the upper and lower bounds but permit the harvest of bass beneath the lower limit or above the upper limit.) Because of the nature of the issue and the phrasing of the question in the survey, it was reasonable for one respondent to submit multiple responses to this question (e.g., a respondent could prefer a 12-inch minimum size limit as well as a 14-inch to 18-inch protected slot).

To assist LDWF managers in their understanding of differences in perspectives among different segments of the angler population, respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Atchafalaya Basin anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were

defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Atchafalaya Basin anglers" includes those respondents who indicated that they fished in the Atchafalaya Basin in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 22. Preferences for Size Limit for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin

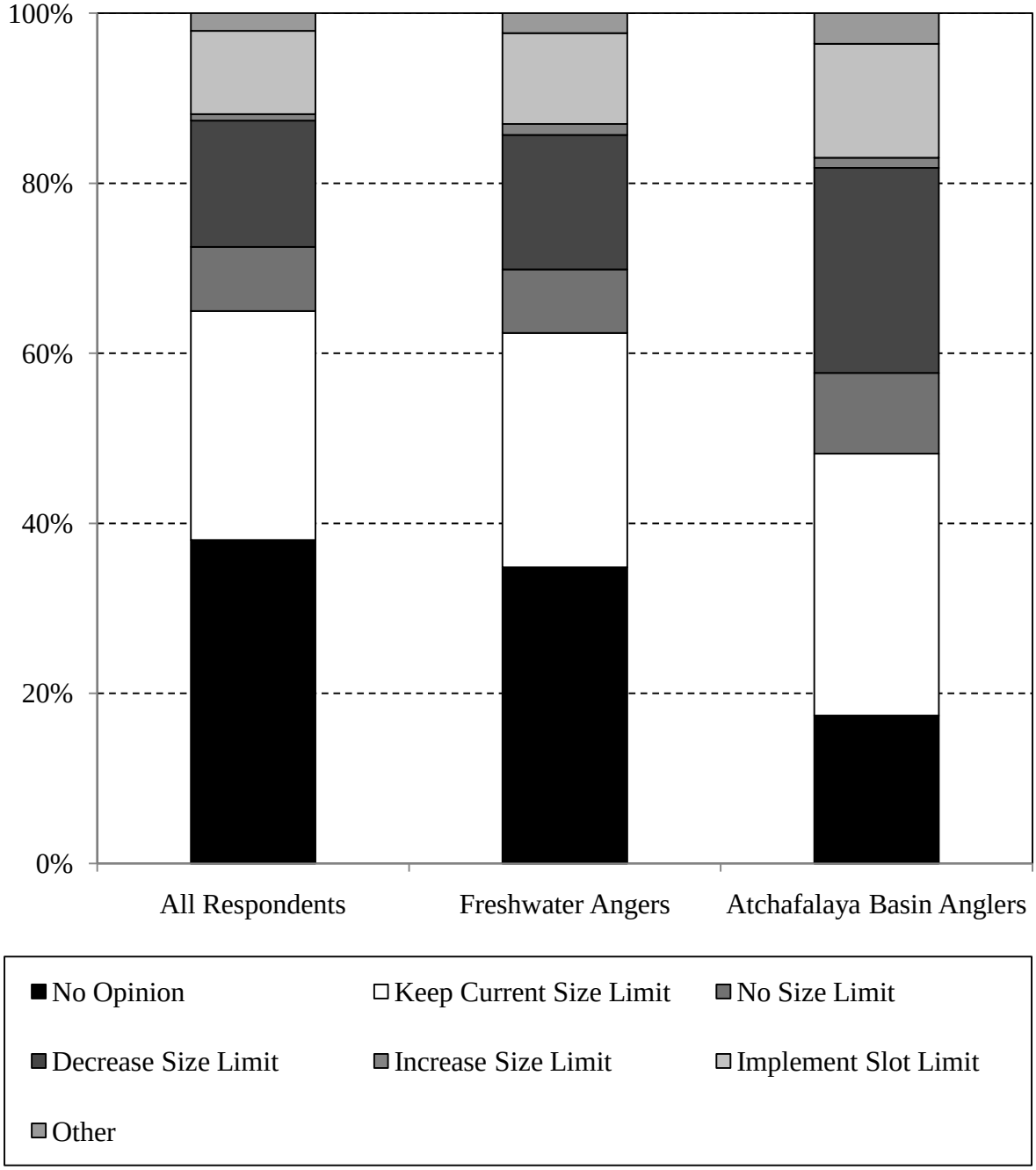


Table 20. Preferences for Size Limit for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other
All Respondents (516 respondents)	531	38.0%	26.9%	7.5%	14.9%	0.8%	9.8%	2.1%
Freshwater Anglers (453 respondents)	468	34.8%	27.6%	7.5%	15.8%	1.3%	10.7%	2.4%
Atchafalaya Basin Anglers (240 respondents)	253	17.4%	30.8%	9.5%	24.1%	1.2%	13.4%	3.6%

A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred sixteen (516) respondents submitted 531 responses to the question related to the minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. Over one-third (38.0 percent) of these responses indicated that the respondents had no opinion regarding the size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. Approximately one-quarter (26.9 percent) of the responses indicated a preference to keep the current size limit. (The combined sum of the percentage of "keep the current size limit" responses and "no opinion" responses is 65.0 percent. This indicates that nearly two-thirds of the responses did not indicate a desire for change in the bass size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin.)

Eight percent (7.5 percent) of responses by all respondents indicated a preference for no size limit for bass and 14.9 percent indicated a preference for decreasing the size limit for bass. The combined sum of these two response categories (22.4 percent) represents the proportion of the responses indicating a preference for a relaxation of the current 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Ten percent (9.8 percent) of the responses by all respondents indicated a preference for a protective slot limit. (Further details of their preferences for a slot limit are described later in this chapter.) Less than one percent (0.8 percent) of responses indicated a preference for increasing

the size limit for bass, and 2.1 percent indicated a preference for some other alternative to the current minimum length limit (Figure 22 and Table 20).

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 466 respondents indicated that they are freshwater anglers. Four hundred fifty-three (453) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin question in the survey, giving a total of 468 responses. Of these 468 responses, 34.8 percent indicated that the respondent had no opinion and 27.6 percent indicated that the respondent preferred to keep the current minimum size limit.

Eight percent (7.5 percent) of the responses from freshwater anglers indicated that the respondent preferred no size limits. Nearly one-sixth of their responses (15.8 percent) indicated a preference for a smaller minimum size limit. (The combined sum of these two response categories, 23.3 percent, represents the percentage of all freshwater anglers' responses expressing a preference for a relaxation in bass size limit regulations in the Atchafalaya Basin.)

Eleven percent (10.7 percent) of the responses by freshwater anglers expressed a preference for a protective slot limit. One percent (1.3 percent) of their responses indicated that the respondent preferred the minimum size limit be increased and 2.4 percent proposed a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 22 and Table 20).

C. Atchafalaya Basin Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 245 respondents indicated that they are Atchafalaya Basin anglers. Two hundred forty (240) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin question in the survey, giving a total of 253 responses. Of these 253 responses, 17.4

percent indicated that the respondent had no opinion and 30.8 percent indicated that the respondent preferred to keep the current minimum size limit.

Twenty-four percent (24.1 percent) of the responses by Atchafalaya Basin anglers indicated that the respondent preferred a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin and 9.5 percent indicated that the respondent did not desire any size limits. Taken together, these suggest that approximately one-third (33.6 percent) of Atchafalaya Basin anglers' responses expressed a preference for a relaxation of the bass size limit from the current minimum of 14 inches.

Thirteen percent (13.4 percent) of the responses by Atchafalaya Basin anglers expressed a preference for a protective slot limit and 1.2 percent indicated that the respondent preferred a larger minimum size limit. Four percent (3.6 percent) of responses proposed a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 22 and Table 20).

Chi-squared statistics suggest that the responses of Atchafalaya Basin anglers are statistically different from the responses of all respondents for size limits in the Atchafalaya Basin ($\chi^2_{(df = 6;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 30.010$). Relative to all respondents, a smaller portion of Atchafalaya Basin anglers responses were "no opinion", a larger percentage indicated a preference for a smaller minimum size limit, and a larger percentage indicated a preference to keep the current limit.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Size Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Size Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin

Respondents who expressed a preference to change the minimum size limit were asked to specify the alternative minimum size limit they preferred. Figure 23 presents the number of respondents providing quantifiable minimum size limits and the number who preferred no size

limit at all. Seventy-eight (78) respondents indicated a preference for a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin while six indicated a larger minimum limit. Because so few respondents indicated a preference for increasing the minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, this chapter will only focus on responses indicating a preference for decreasing the limit.

Among all respondents who indicated that they preferred a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, excluding responses indicating a preference for no size limit, the most commonly recommended minimum size limit was 12 inches. Similar results were found among freshwater anglers and Atchafalaya Basin anglers. The median preferred minimum size limit among respondents that indicated that they preferred a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, in all three groups, was 12 inches (Table 21).

Figure 23. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin (Excludes Responses Indicating a Preference for Protective Slot Limits)

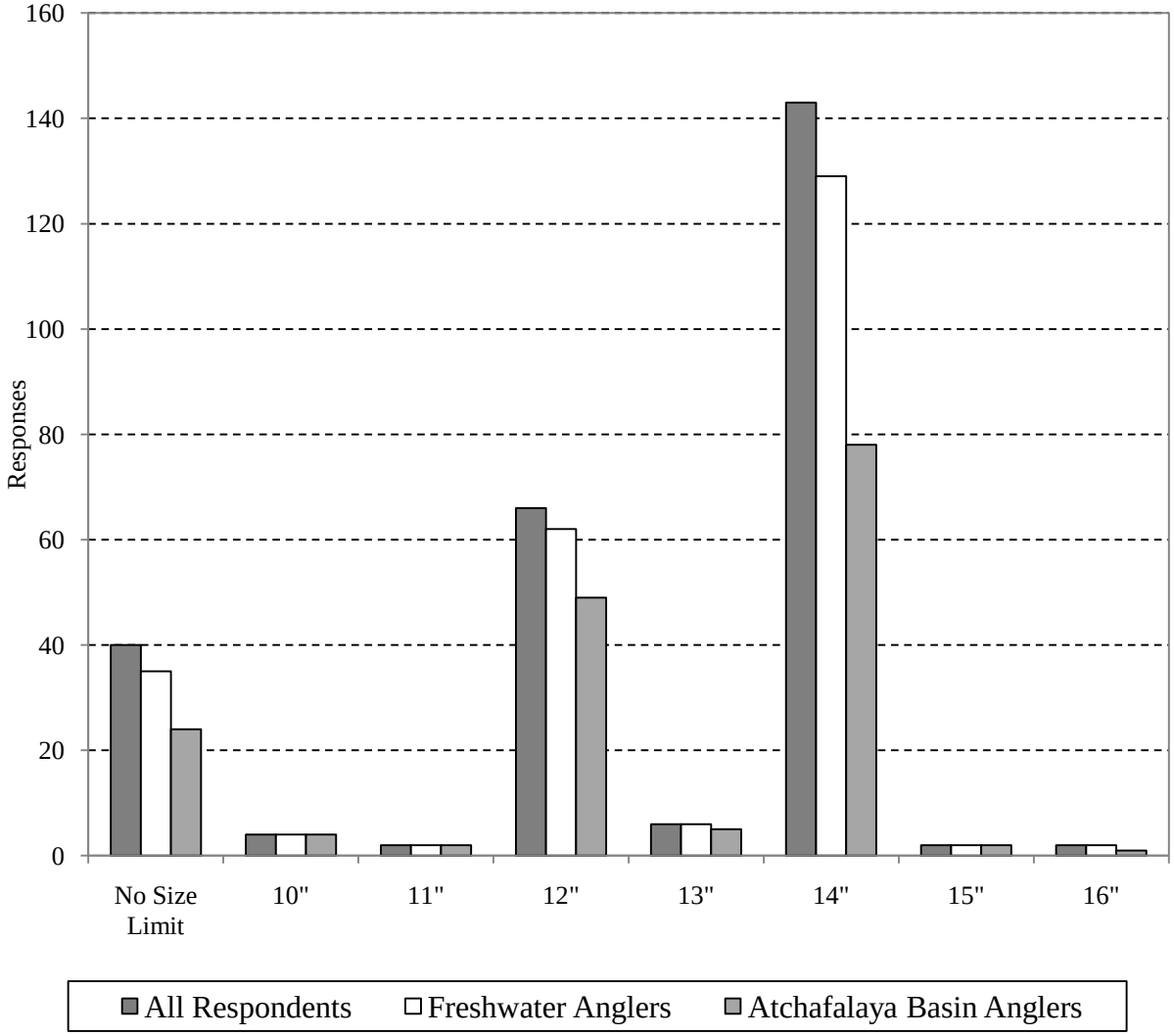


Table 21. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin among Respondents Preferring a Smaller Size Limit (Does Not Include "No Size Limit" Responses)

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	78	11.9	12	12
Freshwater Anglers	74	11.9	12	12
Atchafalaya Basin Anglers	60	11.9	12	12

E. Preferred Upper and Lower Bounds for Protective Slot Limit among Respondents Who Preferred a Slot Limit for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin

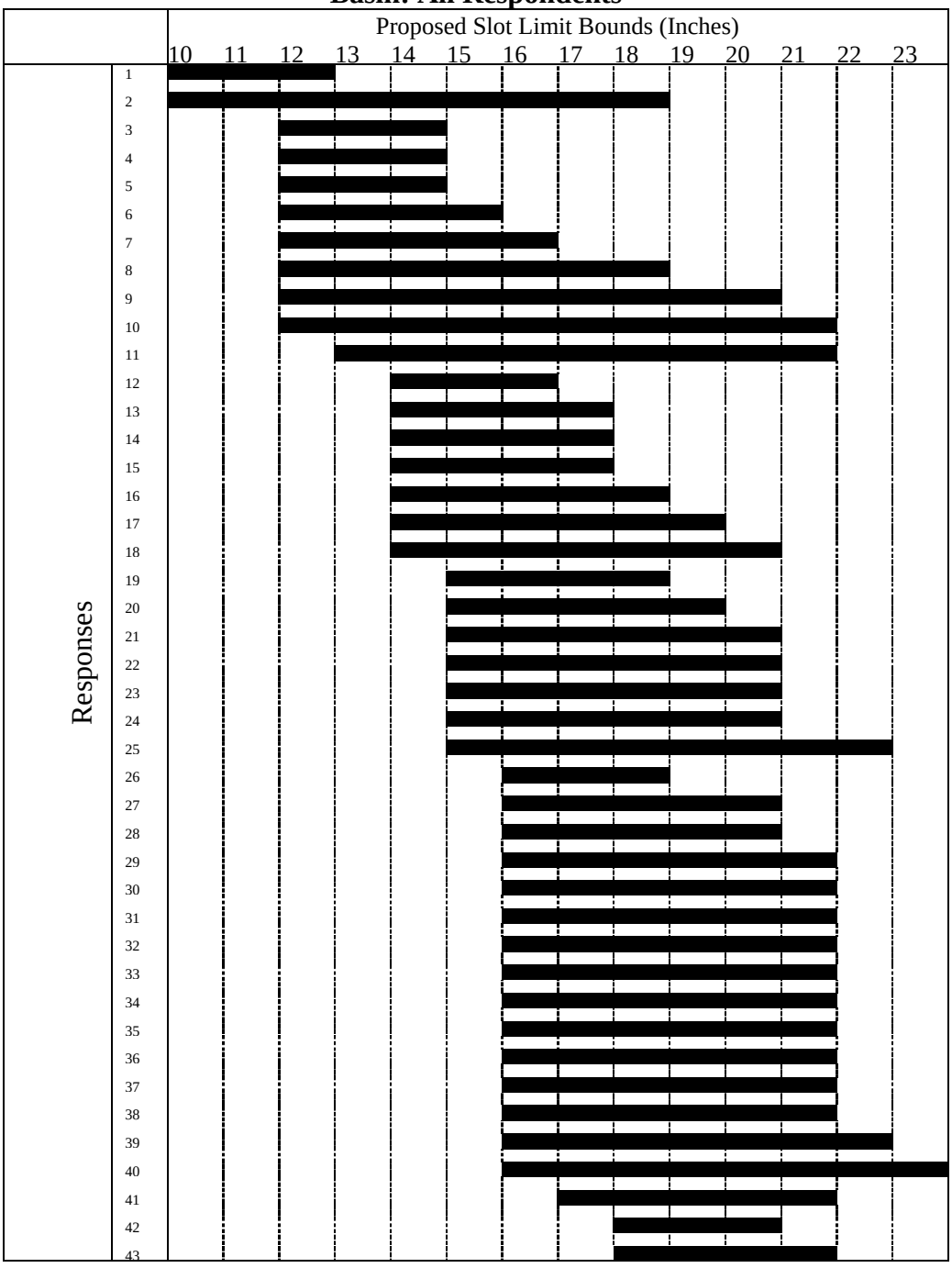
Ten percent (9.8 percent) of all respondents' responses, 10.7 percent of freshwater anglers' responses, and 13.4 percent of Atchafalaya Basin anglers responses indicated a preference for the creation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. (A protective slot limit would allow anglers to keep fish that were smaller than the lower bound or greater than the upper bound but forbid the retention of fish of a size between the lower and upper bounds.) Respondents who indicated a preference for a protective slot limit were asked what lower bounds and upper bounds they would prefer.

i. All Respondents

Fifty-two (52) respondents indicated that they desired the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. Of these 52 responses, 43 included proposals for both the upper and lower bounds for the protective slot. Among those 43 responses, the average difference between the upper and lower bounds of the proposed bass protective slots in the Atchafalaya Basin was 4.6 inches.

There were few indications of significant clustering of the preferred upper and lower bounds for protective slot limits for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin in the responses given by all survey respondents (Figure 24). However, 10 respondents (23.3 percent of respondents who proposed both upper and lower bounds) indicated that they would want the lower bound to be 16 inches and the upper bound to be 21 inches.

Figure 24. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin: All Respondents



ii. Freshwater Anglers

Fifty (50) freshwater anglers responded in the survey that they desire the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. Comparison of their responses to all responses that indicate a desire for the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin shows that almost all (50 of 52) of the responses that indicated a preference for implementing a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin were made by freshwater anglers. Therefore, this report does not include a separate analysis of freshwater anglers because the views of that segment of respondents are very similar to the responses of all respondents.

iii. Atchafalaya Basin Anglers

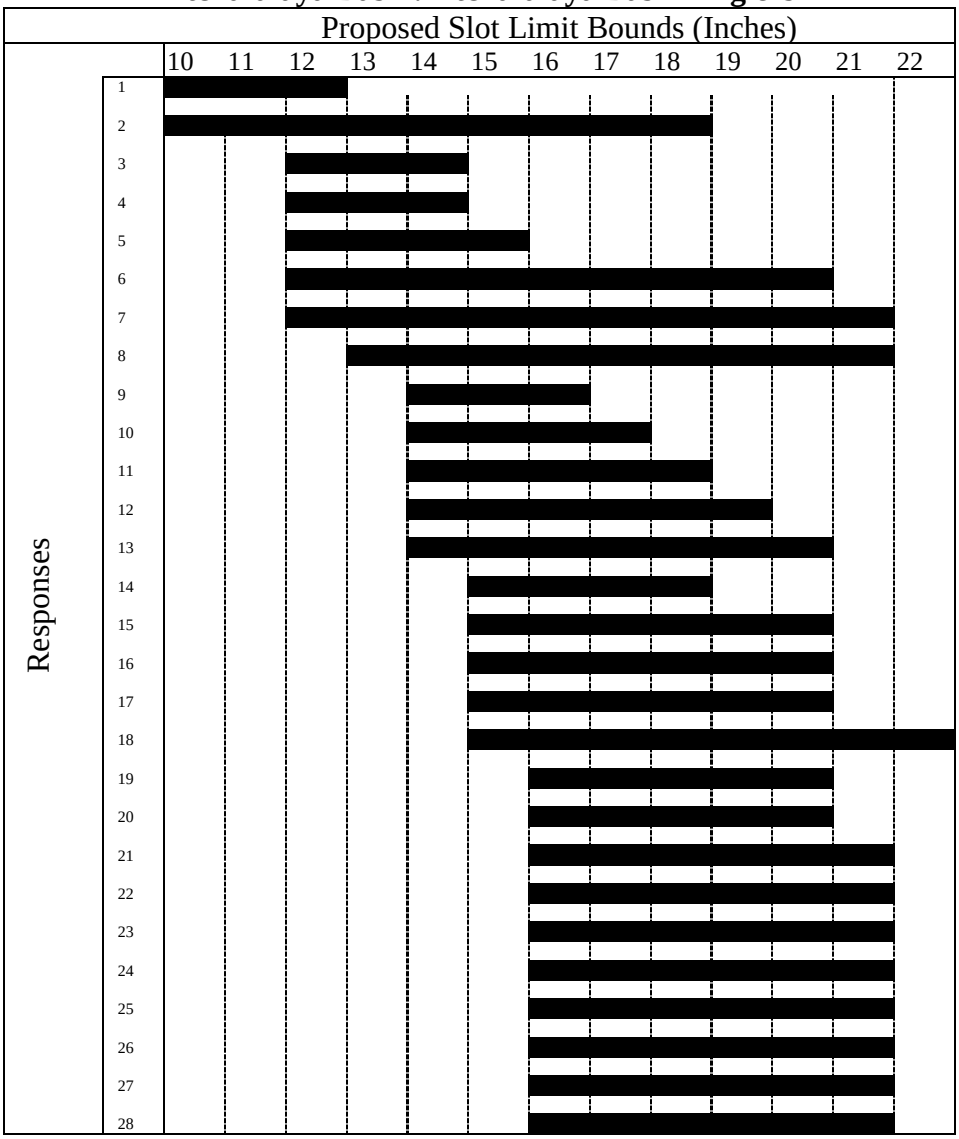
Thirty-four (34) Atchafalaya Basin anglers responded in the survey that they desire the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin. Of these 34 responses, 28 specified both upper and lower bounds for the protective slot. Among those 28 responses, the average difference between the upper and lower bounds of the proposed bass protective slots in the Atchafalaya Basin was 4.8 inches.

Forty-six percent (46.4 percent) of Atchafalaya Basin anglers who recommended an upper and lower bass protective slot limit for the Atchafalaya Basin stated they wanted a lower bound of 15 to 16 inches and an upper bound of 20 to 21 inches. This clustering of upper and lower bounds approximately reflect the desired ranges of "typical" Atchafalaya Basin anglers who desire a protective slot for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin.

The lower and upper bounds for bass slot limits in the Atchafalaya Basin as proposed by Atchafalaya Basin anglers are generally higher than the limits proposed by all respondents. The

distribution of different combinations of their preferred upper and lower bounds for protective slot limits can be found in Figure 25.

Figure 25. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin: Atchafalaya Basin Anglers



Chapter 9.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Size Limit Regulations in Henderson Lake

As in the Atchafalaya Basin, the current minimum size limit for keeping largemouth and spotted bass in Henderson Lake is 14 inches. LDWF managers also wished to assess the perspectives of Louisiana resident anglers on this regulatory measure within this particular waterbody.

Respondents were asked which, if any, change to bass minimum size limit they would make in the Henderson Lake if they were in charge of fisheries management in that area. They were presented a multiple-choice question with six options: no opinion; keep the current minimum size limit; have no size limit at all; set a new minimum size limit; create a protected slot limit; or give a different alternative. Respondents who preferred to change the minimum size limit were asked to specify their preferred minimum size limit. Respondents who indicated a preference for a protected slot limit were asked to specify their preferred upper and lower slot limited bounds. One respondent could submit multiple responses to this question (e.g., a respondent could prefer a lower minimum size limit as well as a protective slot limit).

For analytical purposes, respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Henderson Lake anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Henderson Lake anglers" include those respondents who indicated that they fished in Henderson Lake in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 26. Preferences for Size Limit for Bass in Henderson Lake

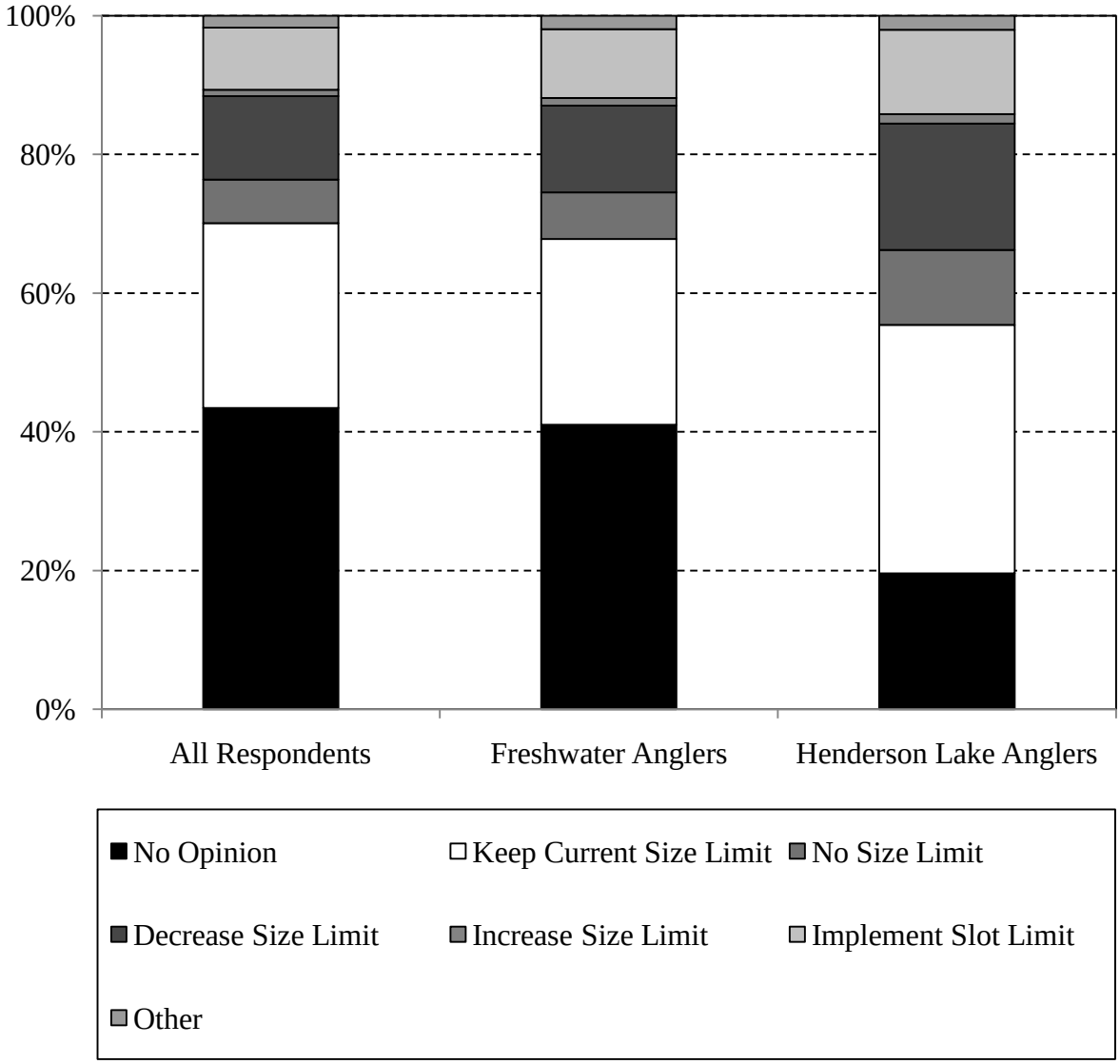


Table 22. Preferences for Size Limits for Bass in Henderson Lake

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other
All Respondents (515 respondents)	525	43.4%	26.7%	6.3%	12.0%	1.0%	9.0%	1.7%
Freshwater Anglers (452 respondents)	463	41.0%	26.8%	6.7%	12.5%	1.1%	9.9%	1.9%
Henderson Lake Anglers (143 respondents)	148	19.6%	35.8%	10.8%	18.2%	1.4%	12.2%	2.0%

A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred fifteen (515) respondents submitted 525 responses to the bass size limit in Henderson Lake question in the survey. Forty-three percent (43.4 percent) of these responses indicated that the respondents had no opinion regarding the bass size limit in Henderson Lake. Approximately one-quarter (26.7 percent) indicated a preference to keep the current size limit.

Twelve percent (12.0 percent) of the responses indicated a preference for decreasing the size limit for bass and 6.3 percent indicated a preference for no size limit for bass in Henderson Lake.

Nine percent (9.0 percent) of the responses indicated a preference for a protective slot limit (further described later in this chapter), 1.0 percent indicated a preference for increasing the size limit for bass, and 1.7 percent indicated a preference for some other alternative to the current minimum length limit.

Eighteen percent (18.3 percent) of their responses (the summation of the percentage of responses indicating a preference for no size limits or lower size limits) communicated preferences for a loosening of the bass size limits in Henderson Lake. Seventy percent (70.1 percent) of responses (the summation of the percentage of responses of "no opinion" and "no change" responses) did not indicate a preference for any change in the bass size limit in Henderson Lake (Figure 26 and Table 22).

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 466 respondents indicated that they are freshwater anglers. Four hundred fifty-two (452) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in Henderson Lake question in the survey, giving a total of 463 responses. Of these 463 responses, 41.0 percent indicated

that the respondent had no opinion and 26.8 percent indicated that the respondent prefers to keep the current minimum size limit.

One-eighth (12.5 percent) of freshwater anglers' responses indicated that the respondents preferred a lower minimum size limit and 6.7 percent indicated that the respondent did not desire any size limits. The combination of these two categories of responses suggests that about one-fifth (19.2 percent) of freshwater anglers' responses expressed a preference for some sort of reduction of the minimum size limit for bass in Henderson Lake.

Approximately one-tenth (9.9 percent) of freshwater anglers' responses expressed a preference for a protective slot limit, 1.1 percent indicated that the respondent preferred a larger minimum size limit, and 1.9 percent proposed a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in Henderson Lake (Figure 26 and Table 22).

C. Henderson Lake Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 144 respondents indicated that they are Henderson Lake anglers. One hundred forty-three (143) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in Henderson Lake question in the survey, giving a total of 148 responses. Of these 148 responses, about one-fifth (19.6 percent) indicated that the respondent had no opinion. Approximately one-third (35.8 percent) indicated that the respondent preferred to keep the current minimum size limit.

Eleven percent (10.8 percent) of responses by Henderson Lake anglers indicated a preference for no size limit and 18.2 percent indicated a preference for the minimum size limit being decreased. Taken together, these suggest that 29.0 percent of Henderson Lake anglers' responses expressed a preference for a reduction of the minimum size-limit from the current 14-inch minimum.

Twelve percent (12.2 percent) of the responses indicated that the respondent preferred the implementation of a protective slot limit, 1.4 percent indicated a preference for a larger size limit, and 2.0 percent proposed a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in Henderson Lake (Figure 26 and Table 22).

Chi-squared statistics show that the responses of Henderson Lake anglers are statically different from the responses of all respondents for size limits in Henderson Lake ($\chi^2_{(df = 6;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 24.166$). Relative to the responses of all respondents, a smaller portion of Henderson Lake angler responses were "no opinion", a larger portion expressed a preference for a smaller size limit, and a larger portion expressed a preference to keep the current limit.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Size Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Size Limit in Henderson Lake

Respondents who expressed a preference for changing the minimum size limit in Henderson Lake were asked to specify the alternative size limit they would prefer. Sixty-three (63) respondents indicated a preference for decreasing the minimum size limit for bass in Henderson Lake while five indicated a preference for increasing the minimum size limit. Because so few respondents indicated a preference for increasing the minimum size limit for bass in Henderson Lake, this chapter will only focus on responses indicating a preference for decreasing the limit. (Figure 27 shows the number of respondents who provided a quantifiable minimum size limit and those who marked the "no size limit" option.)

Among all respondents who indicated that they would prefer a smaller minimum size limit for bass in Henderson Lake, excluding responses indicating a preference for no size limit, the most commonly preferred alternative minimum size limit was 12 inches (Table 23). Similar

results are observed among freshwater anglers and Henderson Lake anglers. The median preferred bass minimum length for all three groups was 12 inches.

Figure 27. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in Henderson Lake (Excludes Responses Indicating a Preference for Protective Slot Limits)

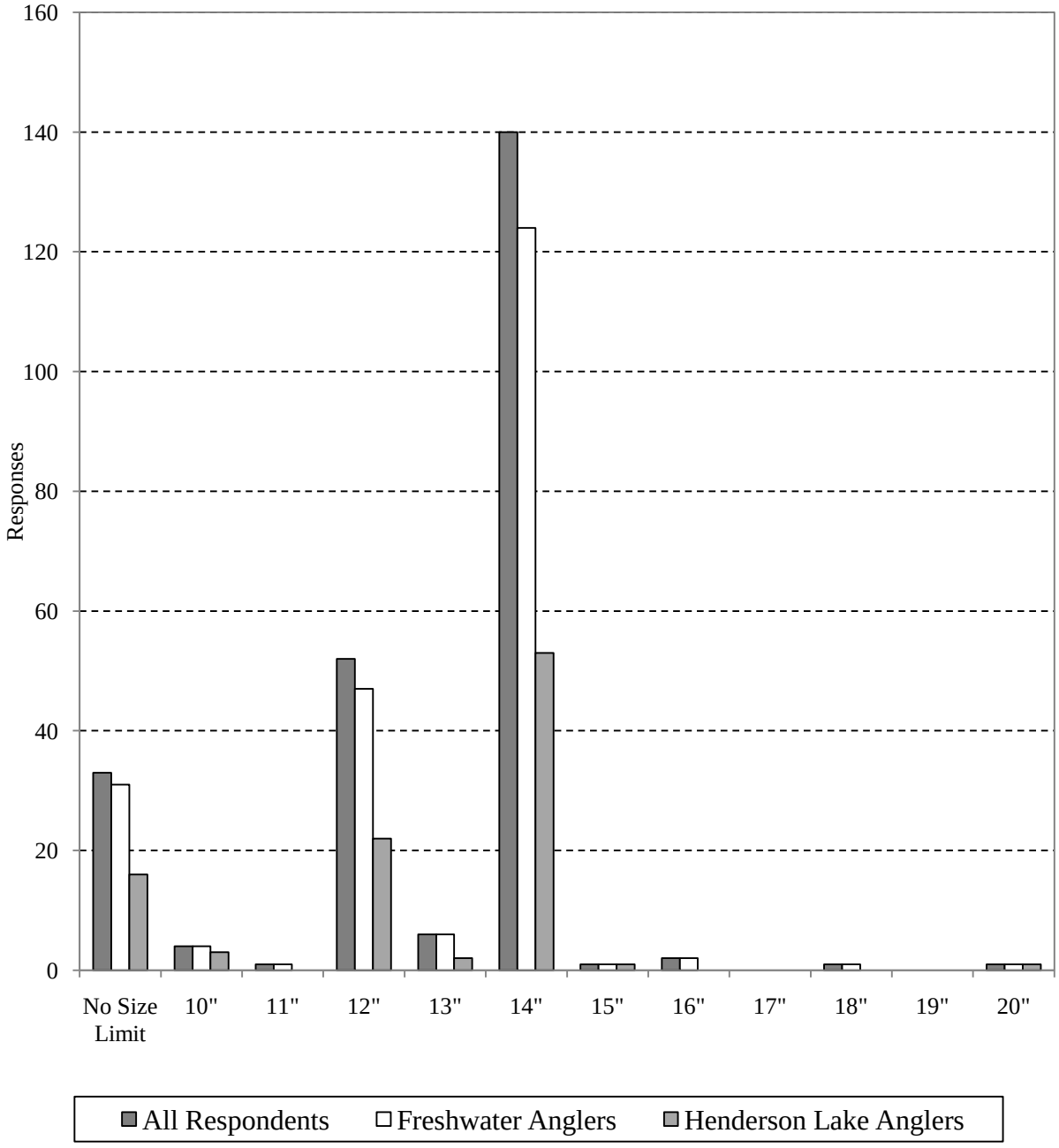


Table 23. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in Henderson Lake among Respondents Who Prefer a Smaller Minimum Size Limit

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	63	12.0	12	12
Freshwater Anglers	58	11.9	12	12
Henderson Lake Anglers	27	11.9	12	12

E. Preferred Upper and Lower Bounds for Protective Slot Limit among Respondents Who Preferred a Slot Limit for Bass in Henderson Lake

Respondents who indicated a preference for a protective slot for bass in Henderson Lake (9.0 percent of responses by all respondents; 9.9 percent of responses by freshwater anglers; 12.2 percent of responses by Henderson Lake anglers) were asked to specify the lower and upper bounds they would prefer. (A protective slot limit would forbid the taking of bass of a length between the lower and upper bounds but allow the taking of fish beneath the lower bound or above the upper bound.)

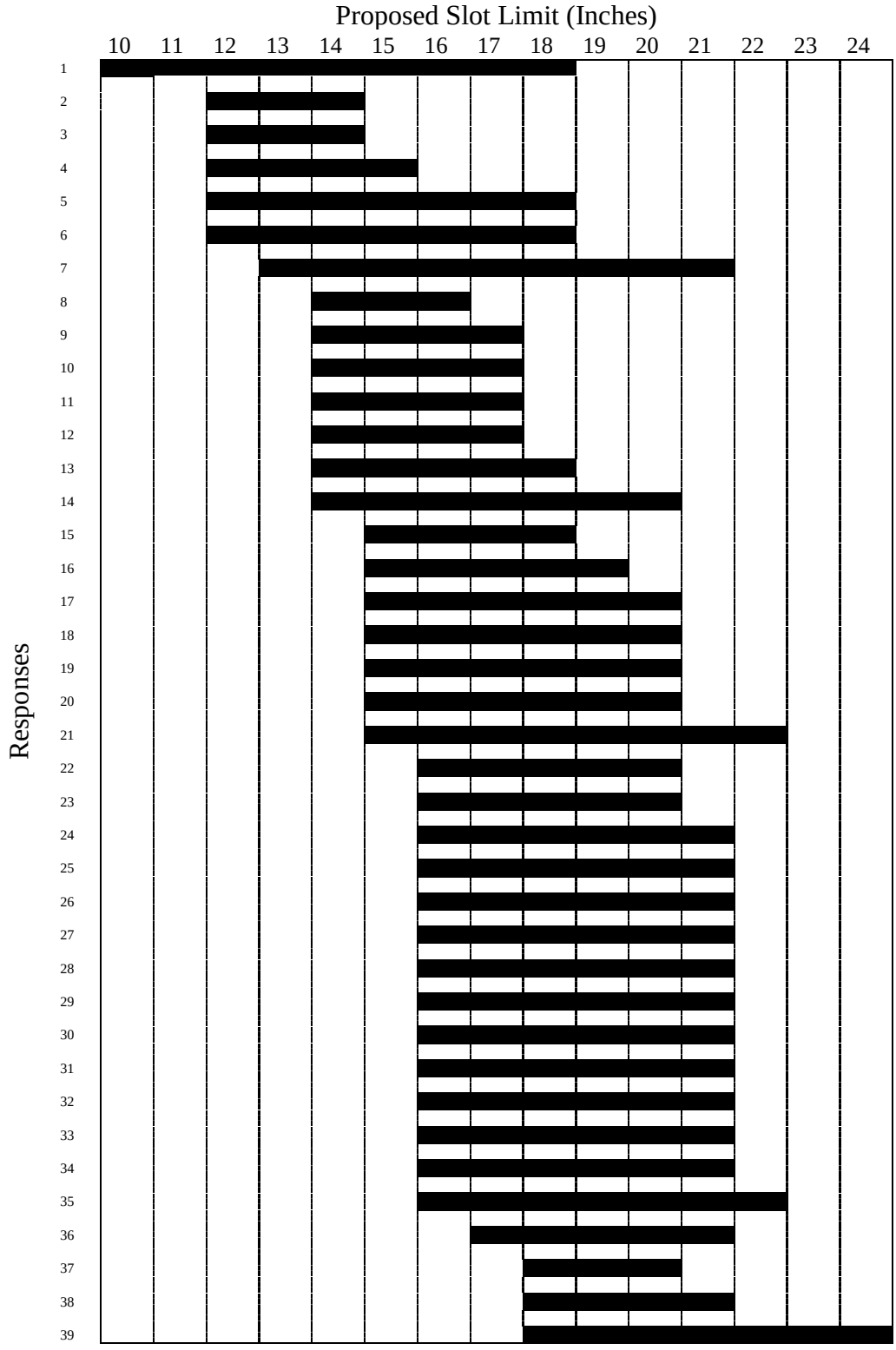
i. All Respondents

Forty-seven (47) respondents responded in the survey that they desire the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake. Of these 47 responses, 39 included proposals for both the upper and lower bounds for the protective slot (Figure 28). Among those 39 responses, the average difference between the upper and lower bounds of the proposed bass protective slots in Henderson Lake was 4.5 inches.

A majority (53.8 percent) of the 39 respondents who indicated a desire for a lower slot bound for bass in Henderson Lake indicated a preference for a lower bound of 15 or 16 inches. Also, 56.4 percent of these respondents indicated a desire for the implementation of an upper slot

bound for bass in Henderson Lake of 20 to 21 inches. The most commonly desired combination of protective lower and upper slot bounds were 16 inches and 21 inches (28.2 percent of combinations). This would suggest that a "typical" angler who desires the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake would prefer the limit be 15 or 16 inches to 20 or 21 inches.

Figure 28. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in Henderson Lake: All Respondents



ii. Freshwater Anglers

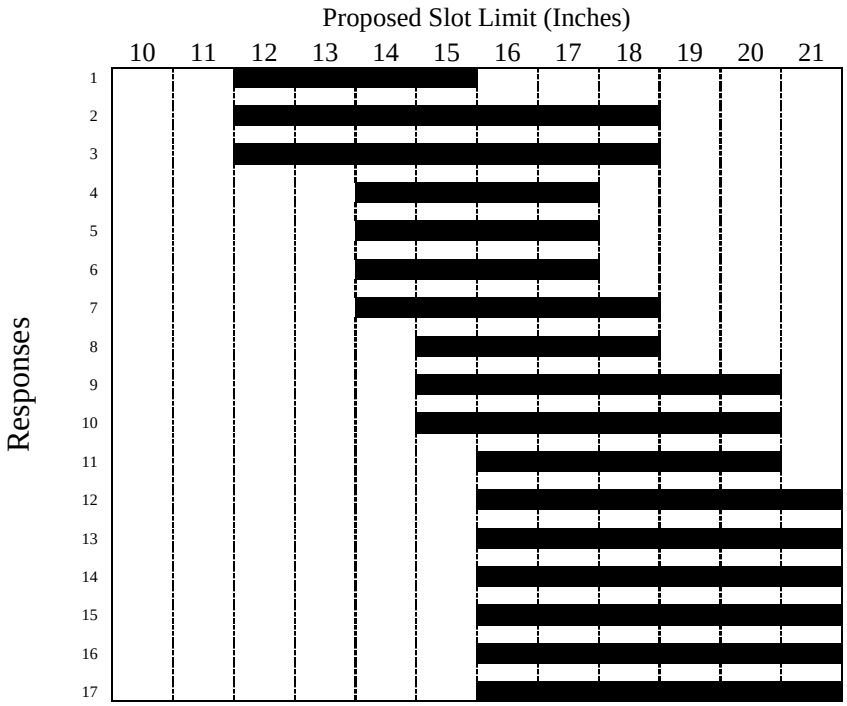
Forty-six (46) freshwater anglers responded in the survey that they desired the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake. Comparison of their responses to all responses that indicate a desire for the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake shows that almost all (46 of 47) responses that indicated a preference for implementing a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake were made by freshwater anglers. Therefore, this report does not include a separate analysis of freshwater anglers because the views of that segment of respondents are very similar to the responses of all respondents.

iii. Henderson Lake Anglers

Eighteen (18) Henderson Lake anglers indicated a preference for implementing a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake. Seventeen (17) of these respondents provided their preferred lower and upper bounds for a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake (Figure 29). The average difference between the upper and lower bounds of these proposed slot limits was 4.2 inches.

Due to the small sample of Henderson Lake anglers who indicated a preference for implementing a protective slot limit for bass in Henderson Lake, it is difficult to determine their desired characteristics for said protective slot limit.

Figure 29. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in Henderson Lake: Henderson Lake Anglers



Chapter 10.

Respondents' Preferences Regarding Bass Size Limit Regulations in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

The Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex (identified as "Lake Verret Complex") has a 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and spotted bass. LDWF managers wished to assess the perspectives of Louisiana resident anglers on this regulatory measure within these three waterbodies.

Respondents were asked which, if any, change to minimum size limit they would make in the Lake Verret Complex if they were in charge of fisheries management in that area. A multiple-choice question presented six options: no opinion; keep the current minimum size limit; have no size limit at all; set a new minimum size limit; create a protected slot limit; or give a different alternative. Respondents who preferred to change the minimum size limit were asked to specify their preferred minimum size limit. Respondents who indicated a preference for a protected slot limit were asked to specify their preferred upper and lower slot limited bounds. One respondent could submit multiple responses to this question (e.g., a respondent could prefer a higher minimum size limit as well as a protective slot limit).

Respondents were segmented into three groups: all respondents, freshwater anglers, and Lake Verret Complex anglers. "Freshwater anglers" were defined as all respondents who fished one or more days in freshwater in 2009. "Lake Verret Complex anglers" includes those respondents who indicated that they fished in the Lake Verret Complex in their response to the question related to freshwater fishing locations.

Figure 30. Preferences for Size Limit for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex

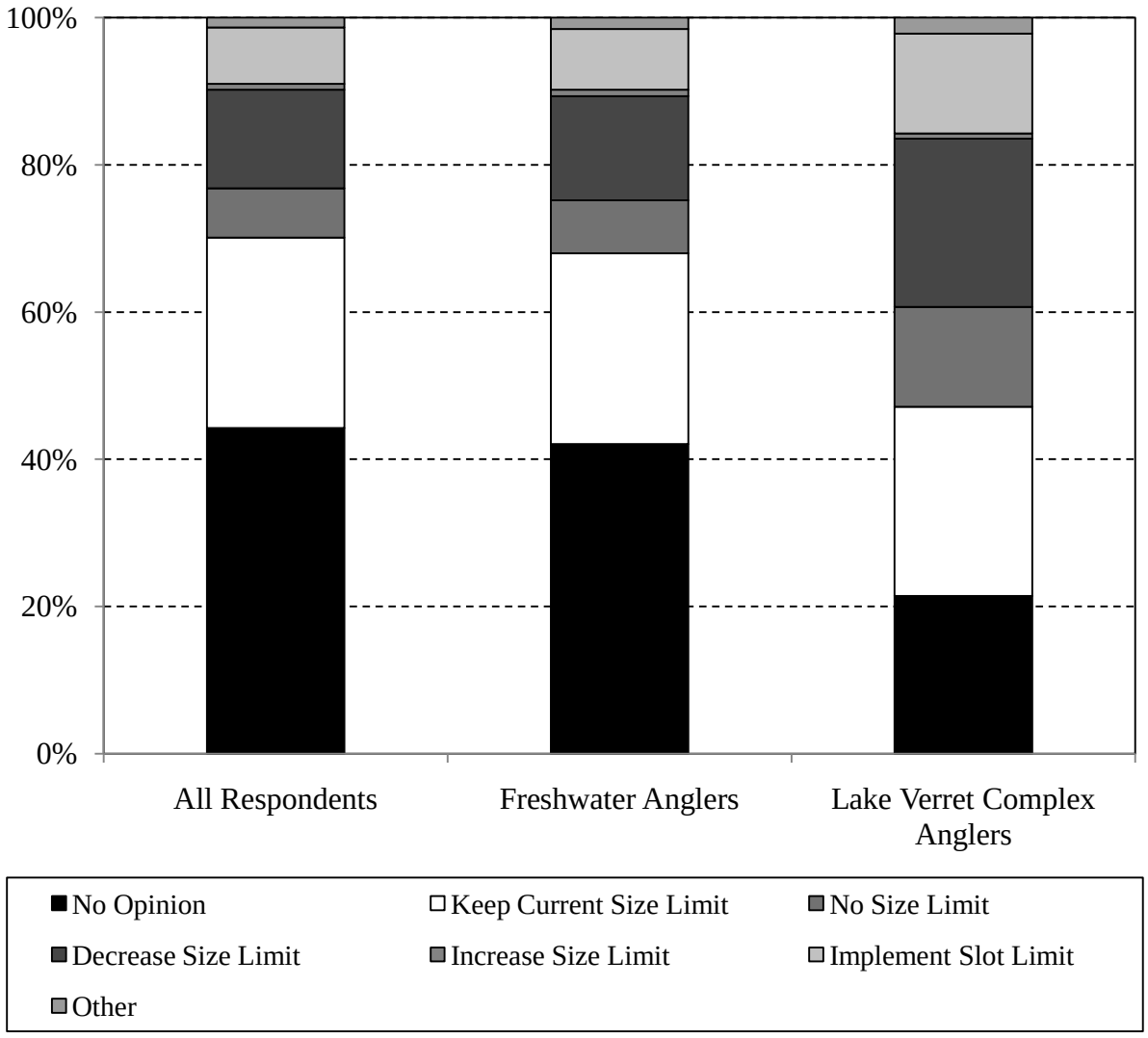


Table 24. Preferences for Size Limit for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex

	N (responses)	No Opinion	Keep Current Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other
All Respondents (514 respondents)	522	44.3%	25.9%	6.7%	13.4%	0.8%	7.7%	1.3%
Freshwater Anglers (452 respondents)	459	42.0%	25.9%	7.2%	14.2%	0.9%	8.3%	1.5%
Lake Verret Complex Anglers (135 respondents)	140	21.4%	25.7%	13.6%	22.9%	0.7%	13.6%	2.1%

A. All Respondents' Preferences

Five hundred fourteen (514) respondents submitted 522 responses to the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex question in the survey. Forty-four percent (44.3 percent) of these responses indicated that the respondents had no opinion regarding the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex. Over one quarter (25.9 percent) indicated a preference to keep the current size limit. Seven percent (6.7 percent) of the responses indicated a preference for no size limit for bass, 13.4 percent indicated a preference for decreasing the size limit for bass, 0.8 percent indicated a preference for increasing the size limit for bass, 7.7 percent indicated a preference for implementing a protective slot limit, and 1.3 percent indicated a preference for a different alternative to the current minimum length limit.

About one-fifth of the responses by all respondents (the summation of the 6.7 percent of responses that preferred no size limit and the 13.4 percent that preferred a lower size limit) indicated a clear preference of a reduction of bass size limit regulations in the Lake Verret Complex. Seventy percent (70.1 percent) of responses (the summation of the percentage of responses giving "no opinion" responses and indicating a preference to "keep the size limit" responses) did not indicate a preference for any alteration in the minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 30 and Table 24).

B. Freshwater Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 466 respondents indicated that they are Lake Verret Complex anglers. Four hundred fifty-two (452) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex question in the survey, giving a total of 459 responses. Of these 459 freshwater angler responses, 42.0 percent indicated that the respondent had no opinion and 25.9 percent indicated that the respondent prefers to keep the current minimum size limit.

Seven percent (7.2 percent) of responses by freshwater anglers indicated that the respondent preferred no size limits and 14.2 percent indicated that the respondent prefers the minimum size limit be decreased. Eight percent (8.3 percent) of responses indicated that the respondent preferred the implementation of a protective slot limit, 0.9 percent indicated that the respondent preferred the minimum size limit be increased, and 1.5 percent proposed a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 30 and Table 24).

C. Lake Verret Complex Anglers' Preferences

In the survey, 140 respondents indicated that they are Lake Verret Complex anglers. One hundred thirty-five (135) of these respondents responded to the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex question in the survey, giving a total of 140 responses. Of these 140 responses, 21.4 percent indicated that the respondent had no opinion and 25.7 percent indicated that the respondent preferred to keep the current minimum size limit.

Twenty-three percent (22.9 percent) of the responses indicated that the respondent preferred a smaller minimum size limit and 13.6 percent indicated that the respondent preferred no size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Thus, 36.5 percent of Lake Verret anglers' responses expressed a preference for some sort of a reduction of the minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex.

Fourteen percent (13.6 percent) of the Lake Verret Complex anglers' responses indicated a preference for a protective slot limit and 0.7 percent indicated a preference for a larger minimum size limit. Two percent (2.1 percent) advanced a different alternative with regards to the bass size limit in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 30 and Table 24).

Chi-squared statistics show that the responses of Lake Verret Complex anglers are statistically different from the responses of all respondents for size limits in the Lake Verret Complex ($\chi^2_{(df = 6;\ \alpha = 0.05)}$ = = 18.042). Compared to the responses of all respondents, a smaller percentage of the responses by Lake Verret anglers were "no opinion", a larger percentage indicated a desire for the implementation of a protective slot limit, and a larger percentage indicated a preference for a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex.

D. Preferred Alternative Bass Size Limits among Respondents Who Prefer Decreasing the Size Limit in the Lake Verret Complex

Respondents who indicated a preference to change the bass minimum size limit in the Lake Verret Complex were asked to specify the minimum size limits they would prefer. Seventy (70) respondents indicated a preference for a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex while four indicated a preference for a larger minimum size limit. Because so few respondents indicated a preference for a larger minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex, this chapter will only focus on responses indicating a preference for a lower limit.

Among all respondents who indicated that they would prefer a smaller minimum size limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex, the most commonly preferred minimum size limit was 12 inches (Figure 31). Similar results were found among freshwater anglers and Lake Verret Complex anglers. For all three segments of respondents, the median preferred length was 12 inches (Table 25).

Figure 31. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex (Excludes Responses Indicating a Preference for Protective Slot Limits)

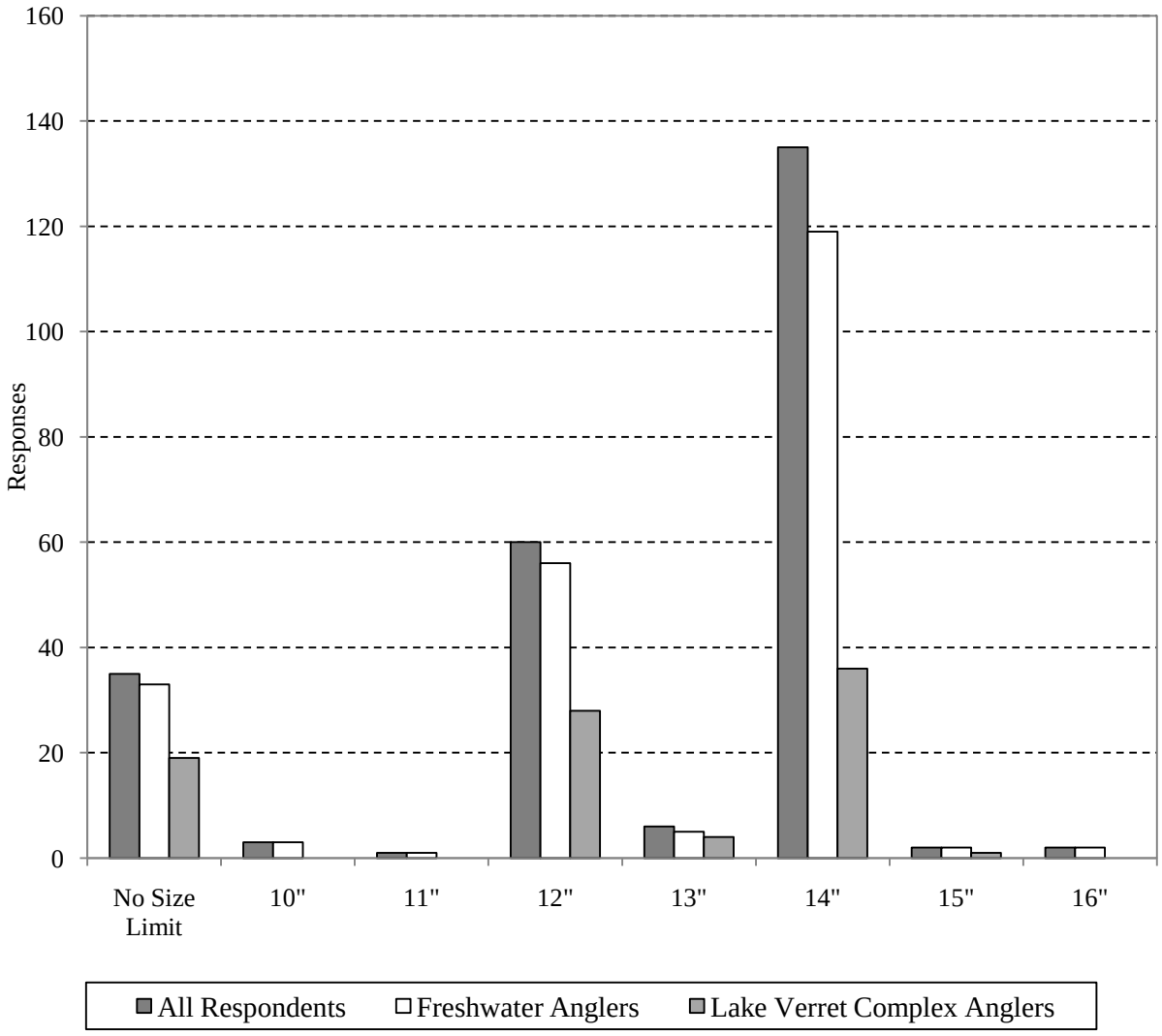


Table 25. Preferred Minimum Size Limit for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex among Respondents Who Prefer a Smaller Size Limit

	N (responses)	Average	Median	Mode
All Respondents	70	12.0	12	12
Freshwater Anglers	65	12.0	12	12
Lake Verret Complex Anglers	32	12.1	12	12

E. Preferred Upper and Lower Bounds for Protective Slot Limit among Respondents Who Preferred a Slot Limit for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex

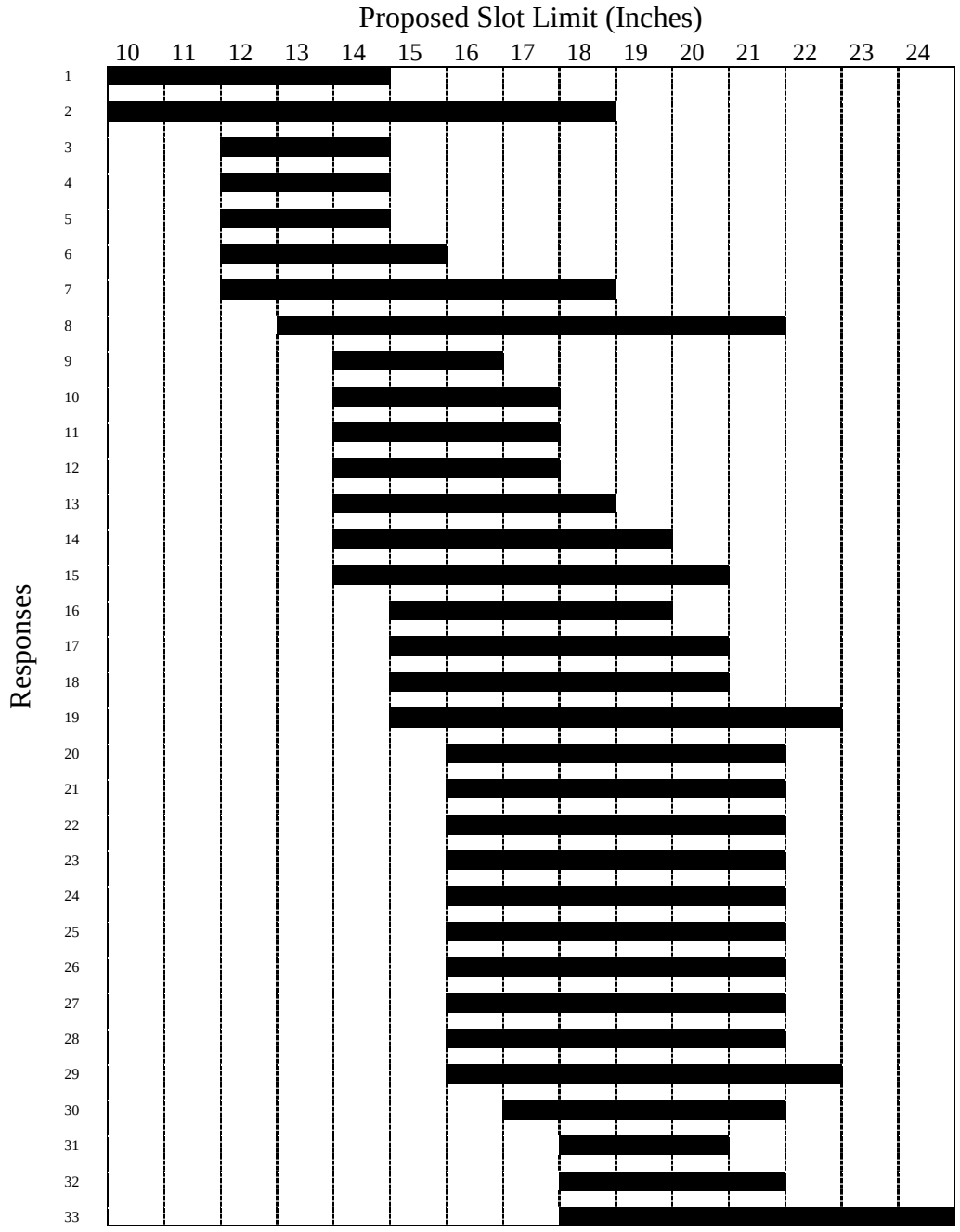
Relatively small portions of the survey responses (7.7 percent of all respondents' responses; 8.3 percent of freshwater anglers' responses; 13.6 percent of Lake Verret Complex anglers' responses) indicated a preference for a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Those who expressed a preference for a protective slot were asked to specify the lower bound and upper bound of the protective slot limits they preferred.

i. All Respondents

Forty (40) respondents responded that they preferred a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Of these 40 responses, 33 included proposals for both the upper and lower bounds for the protective slot (Figure 32). Among those 33 responses, the average difference between the upper and lower bounds of the proposed bass protective slots in the Lake Verret Complex was 4.5 inches.

There were no apparent signs of significant clustering of the upper and lower bounds preferred by all respondents who indicated a preference for a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. However, nine respondents (27.3 percent of respondents who proposed both upper and lower limits) indicated that they would want the lower bound to be 16 inches and the upper bound to be 21 inches.

Figure 32. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex: All Respondents



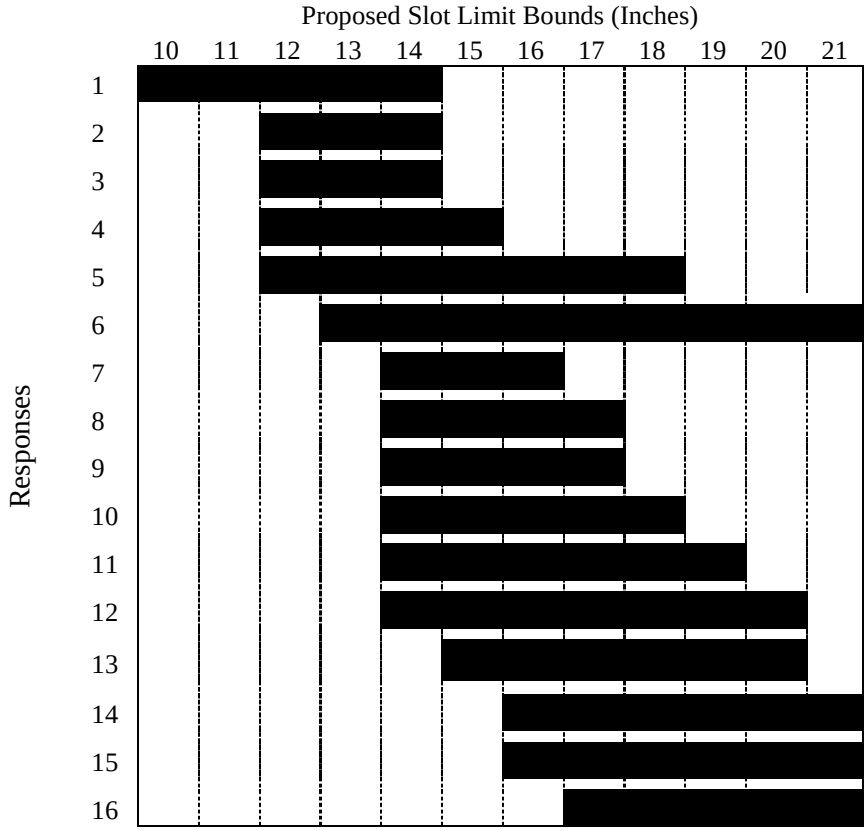
ii. Freshwater Anglers

Thirty-eight (38) freshwater anglers indicated a preference for a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Comparison of their responses to the responses of all responses shows that almost all (38 of 40) responses that indicated a preference for a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex were made by freshwater anglers. Therefore, this report does not include a separate analysis of freshwater anglers because the views of that segment of respondents are very similar to the responses of all respondents.

iii. Lake Verret Complex Anglers

Only 19 Lake Verret Complex anglers responded in the survey that they desired the implementation of a protective slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex. Sixteen (16) of these respondents indicated a preferred lower and upper bound for their preferred slot limit for bass in the Lake Verret Complex (Figure 33). The average difference between the upper and lower bounds of their proposed slot limits was 4.2 inches. The small sample of Lake Verret Complex anglers who indicated a desire to implement a protective slot for bass in the Lake Verret Complex makes it difficult to extrapolate their responses to the population of all Louisiana resident anglers who fish in the Lake Verret Complex.

Figure 33. Proposed Protective Slot Limits for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex: Lake Verret Complex Anglers



SECTION 5.

Impact Bass Size Limits Have on Number of Trips Taken, Bass Size Limit Preferences that Correspond to Bass Bag Limit Preferences, and Differences in Regulation Preferences Based on Proximity to Atchafalaya Basin

For the Atchafalaya Basing, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

Chapter 11.

Impact of Minimum Size Limits for Bass on Number of Trips Taken to the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex

Section 4 of this report details survey respondents' preferences pertaining to minimum size limits for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex ("Lake Verret Complex"). LDWF managers were also interested in measuring how the current 14-inch minimum size limit regulation might be affecting the number of fishing trips taken to these areas.

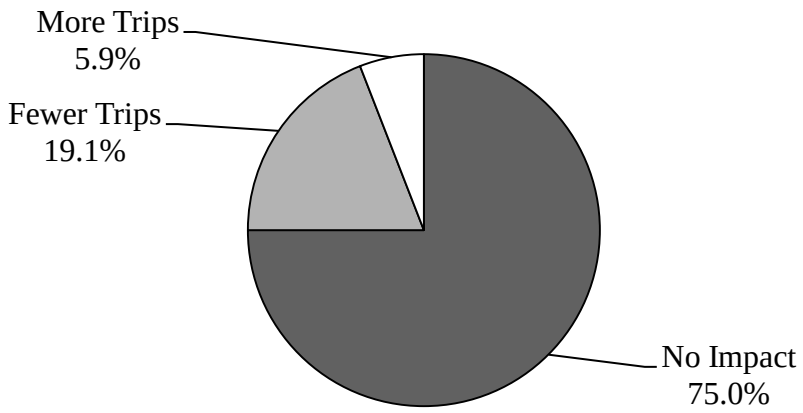
Respondents were asked to indicate if the current 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret Complex has an impact on the number of fishing trips they take to these areas. In an effort to reduce survey fatigue and promote a higher survey response rate, the question was asked once for the three-area study region (the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret Complex collectively) rather than for each waterbody individually.

Though this approach simplified the format of the questionnaire, it limited the capacity to assess how the minimum size limits affect anglers' visits to each specific waterbody. Thus, to analyze this question, responses were segregated based on whether respondents indicated that they fish in a particular waterbody. Using this separation method, the effect that the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass has on individual waterbodies can be estimated, with the assumption that when a respondent answered this question, his or her answer was in reference to the waterbodies on which he or she fished.

A. All Waterbodies within the Three-Area Study Region

Three-quarters (75.0 percent) of the responses indicated the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass does not affect the number of trips that respondents take to the three-area study region. Approximately one-fifth (19.1 percent) indicated that they take fewer fishing trips while 5.9 percent indicated that they take more trips to the three-area study region because of the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass (Figure 34).

Figure 34. Impact of the 14-Inch Minimum Size Limit for Bass on the Number of Fishing Trips Taken by All Respondents

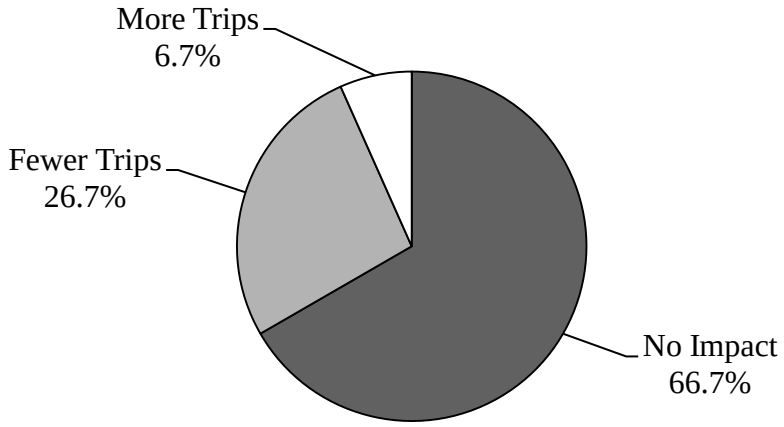


B. Atchafalaya Basin

Two hundred forty-five (245) respondents indicated that they fish in the Atchafalaya Basin. Two hundred forty (240) of these respondents also responded to the question asking them if the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the three-area study region has an impact on the number of fishing trips that they take in the three-area study region. Assuming that their responses apply to trips to the Atchafalaya Basin, two-thirds (66.7 percent) of the respondents indicated that the minimum size limit does not have an impact on the number of trips they take to the Atchafalaya Basin. About one-quarter (26.7 percent) indicated that the minimum size limit causes them to take few trips to the Atchafalaya Basin. Only 6.7 percent of these respondents

indicated that the minimum size limit causes them to take more trips to the Atchafalaya Basin (Figure 35).

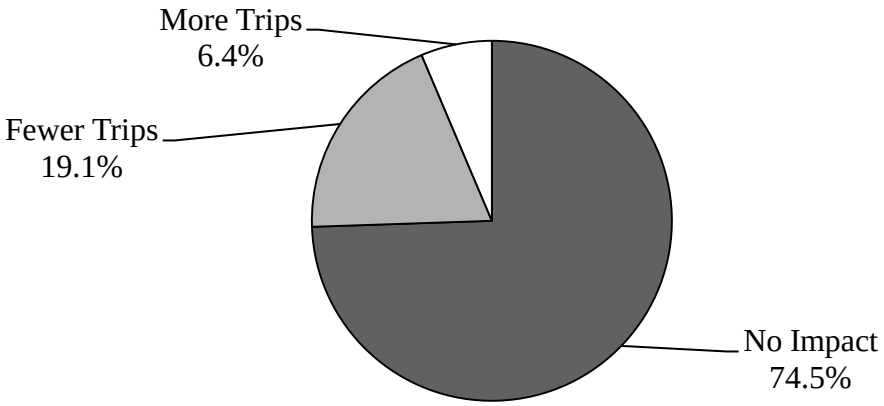
Figure 35. Impact of the 14-Inch Minimum Size Limit for Bass on the Number of Fishing Trips Taken by Atchafalaya Basin Anglers



C. Henderson Lake

One hundred forty-four (144) respondents indicated that they fish in Henderson Lake. One hundred forty-one (141) of these respondents also responded to the question asking them if the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the three-area study region affects the number of fishing trips that they take in the three-area study region. Assuming that their responses apply to trips to Henderson Lake, about one-fifth (19.1 percent) indicated that they take fewer trips to Henderson Lake because of the size limit while 6.4 percent indicated that they take more trips to Henderson Lake because of the regulation. Three-quarters (74.5 percent) of these responses indicated that the minimum size-limits does not affect the number of trips they take to Henderson Lake (Figure 36).

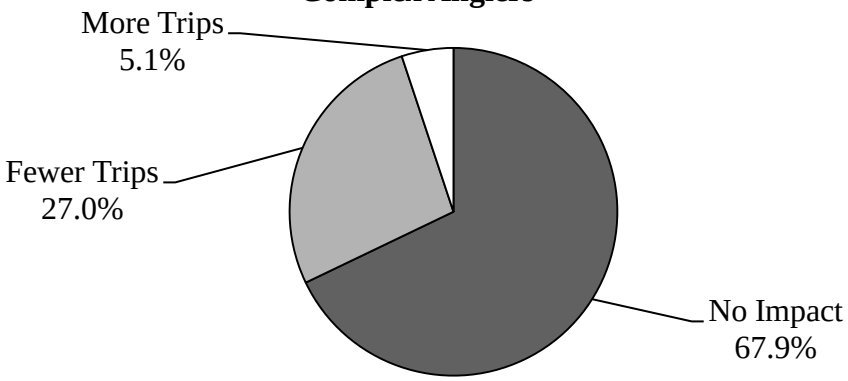
Figure 36. Impact of the 14-Inch Minimum Size Limits for Bass on the Number of Fishing Trips Taken by Henderson Lake Anglers



D. Lake Verret Complex

One hundred forty (140) respondents indicated that they fish in the Lake Verret Complex. One hundred thirty-seven (137) of these respondents also responded to the question asking them if the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the three-area study region has an impact on the number of fishing trips that they take in the three-area study region. Assuming that their responses apply to trips to the Lake Verret Complex, the minimum size limit does not have an impact on the number of trips taken by about two-thirds (67.9 percent) of these respondents. About one-quarter (27.0 percent) indicated that they take fewer trips to the Lake Verret Complex while 5.1 percent indicated that they take more trips to the Lake Verret Complex because of the 14-inch minimum size-limit for bass (Figure 37).

Figure 37. Impact of the 14-Inch Minimum Size Limit for Bass on the Number of Fishing Trips Taken by Lake Verret Complex Anglers



Chapter 12.

How Respondents' Preferences for Minimum Size Limits Correspond to Their Preferences for Daily Bag Limits

An objective of this report was to determine what preferences for bass size limits generally correspond to preferences for bass daily bag limits in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex (identified as "Lake Verret Complex"). To meet this objective, responses to bag limit preferences for all three waterbodies were segregated then compared to their corresponding responses (i.e., by the same respondents) for size limit preferences for the respective waterbodies.

As an example of this analysis, as indicated in Table 26, respondents who indicated that they have no opinion regarding the daily bag limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin gave 159 responses regarding their preference(s) for bass size limits in the Atchafalaya Basin. Among those 159 responses, 5.0 percent indicated that they preferred no size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin.

For bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, among all respondents who indicated that they want to keep the current daily bag limit, the most commonly recommended preference for the size limit was to keep the current size limit (38.9 percent). Only 26.3 percent of these respondents indicated that they wanted to have no size limit or decrease the size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin and 0.4 percent indicated that they want to increase the size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Among all respondents who indicated that they would prefer the daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin be decreased, the most common preference for the size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin was to keep the current size limit (31.8 percent). Also, respondents who indicated that they would prefer a decrease in the daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin were

the most likely respondents to indicate a preference for implementing a protective slot limit in the Atchafalaya Basin (excluding respondents who indicated a preference for an "other" change to the daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin). Among all respondents who indicated that they would prefer the daily bag limit in the Atchafalaya Basin be increased, over half (56.6 percent) of their responses for the size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin were a preference to have no size limit or to decrease the size limit.

Similar findings were found for Henderson Lake and the Lake Verret Complex. For both waterbodies, among respondents who indicated that they want to keep the current daily bass bag limit, the most commonly recommended preference for the size limit was also to keep the current bass size limit. Further, for both waterbodies, keeping the current size limit was the most common size limit preference among respondents who indicated a preference for the daily bag limit being decreased. For both waterbodies, among respondents who indicated a preference for the daily bag limit being increased, over half of the responses for the size limit indicated that they desired for the size limit to be decreased or removed.

The distribution of bass size limit preference responses among respondents with different preferences for bass daily bag limits in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret Complex can be found in Tables 26 to 28.

Table 26. Minimum Size Limit Preferences for Bass that Corresponded to Daily Bag Limit Preferences for Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin

		Atchafalaya Basin Minimum Size Limit Preference							
		No Opinion	Keep Current Size Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other (Size Limit)	Total Responses (Bag Limit)
Atchafalaya Basin Daily Bag Limit Preference	No Opinion	77.4% (123)	8.2% (13)	5.0% (8)	2.5% (4)	0.0% (0)	6.9% (11)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (159)
	Keep Current Bag Limit	21.4% (56)	38.9% (102)	6.1% (16)	20.2% (53)	0.4% (1)	10.7% (28)	2.3% (6)	100.0% (262)
	Decrease Bag Limit	22.7% (10)	31.8% (14)	2.3% (1)	9.1% (4)	6.8% (3)	20.5% (9)	6.8% (3)	100.0% (44)
	Increase Bag Limit	15.1% (8)	20.8% (11)	22.6% (12)	34.0% (18)	1.9% (1)	3.8% (2)	1.9% (1)	100.0% (53)
	Other (Bag Limit)	22.2% (2)	0.0% (0)	22.2% (2)	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	100.0% (9)
	All Atch. Basin Size Responses	**38.0%**	**26.9%**	**7.5%**	**14.9%**	**0.8%**	**9.8%**	**2.1%**	

Table 27. Minimum Size Limit Preferences for Bass that Corresponded to Daily Bag Limit Preferences for Bass in Henderson Lake

		Henderson Lake Minimum Size Limit Preference							
		No Opinion	Keep Current Size Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other (Size Limit)	Total Responses (Bag Limit)
Henderson Lake Daily Bag Limit Preference	No Opinion	81.4% (153)	6.4% (12)	3.7% (7)	3.7% (7)	0.0% (0)	4.8% (9)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (188)
	Keep Current Bag Limit	24.9% (59)	40.1% (95)	6.3% (15)	16.5% (39)	0.4% (1)	10.1% (24)	1.7% (4)	100.0% (237)
	Decrease Bag Limit	17.4% (8)	41.3% (19)	4.3% (2)	6.5% (3)	4.3% (2)	19.6% (9)	6.5% (3)	100.0% (46)
	Increase Bag Limit	11.1% (5)	24.4% (11)	20.0% (9)	31.1% (14)	4.4% (2)	6.7% (3)	2.2% (1)	100.0% (45)
	Other (Bag Limit)	14.3% (1)	14.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	14.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	28.6% (2)	28.6% (2)	100.0% (7)
	All Hend. Lake Size Responses	**43.4%**	**26.7%**	**6.3%**	**12.0%**	**1.0%**	**9.0%**	**1.7%**	

Table 28. Minimum Size Limit Preferences for Bass that Corresponded to Daily Bag Limit Preferences for Bass in the Lake Verret Complex

		Lake Verret Complex Minimum Size Limit Preference							
		No Opinion	Keep Current Size Limit	No Size Limit	Decrease Size Limit	Increase Size Limit	Slot Limit	Other (Size Limit)	Total Responses (Bag Limit)
Lake Verret Complex Daily Bag Limit Preference	No Opinion	80.4% (156)	8.2% (16)	4.1% (8)	3.6% (7)	0.0% (0)	3.6% (7)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (194)
	Keep Current Bag Limit	24.0% (56)	38.6% (90)	6.9% (16)	19.7% (46)	0.4% (1)	8.6% (20)	1.7% (4)	100.0% (233)
	Decrease Bag Limit	24.4% (10)	34.1% (14)	2.4% (1)	7.3% (3)	7.3% (3)	17.1% (7)	7.3% (3)	100.0% (41)
	Increase Bag Limit	11.1% (5)	28.9% (13)	20.0% (9)	31.1% (14)	0.0% (0)	8.9% (4)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (45)
	Other (Bag Limit)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	100.0% (6)
	All LVC Size Responses	**44.3%**	**25.9%**	**6.7%**	**13.4%**	**0.8%**	**7.7%**	**1.3%**	

Chapter 13.

Differences in Preferences Related to the Bass Daily Bag Limit and Size Limit Based on Respondents' Residence in Parishes East or West of the Atchafalaya Basin

LDWF managers were interested in determining whether respondents who lived in parishes to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin demonstrated different patterns in their preferences for bass bag and size limits in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde Complex ("Lake Verret Complex"). To make this determination, residence in parishes to the east of the Atchafalaya Basin was defined by respondents reporting home zip codes in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, Livingston, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Point Coupee, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, St. Martin, Assumption, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, or Jefferson parishes. Residence in parishes to the west was defined by reporting home zip codes in Tensas, Concordia, Avoyelles, Rapides, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermilion, Iberia, or St. Mary parishes. Two hundred and eighty-seven (287) respondents were defined as residing in parishes to the west and 358 were defined as residing in parishes to the east.

A. Bass Daily Bag Limits in the Atchafalaya Basin

The percentage distribution of preferences for bass daily bag limits in the Atchafalaya Basin among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 29. According to chi-squared analysis, these distributions of responses do not appear to be significantly different ($\chi^2_{(df = 4;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 5.744$).

Table 29. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin by Region of Respondents' Residence

	West of the Atchafalaya	East of the Atchafalaya
No Opinion	28.7% (68)	33.7% (92)
Keep Current Limit	54.9% (130)	45.1% (123)
Decrease Limit	7.6% (18)	8.1% (22)
Increase Limit	7.6% (18)	11.7% (32)
Other	1.3% (3)	1.5% (4)
Total	100.0% (237)	100.0% (273)

B. Bass Daily Bag Limits in Henderson Lake

The percentage distribution of preferences pertaining to bass bag limits in Henderson Lake among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 30. There are statistically significantly differences ($\chi^2_{(df = 4;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 9.590$) in the distribution of preferences among respondents in each area. Compared to respondents residing in parishes to the east of the Atchafalaya Basin, respondents who live in parishes to the west of the Atchafalaya Basin were less likely to mark "no opinion", prefer to decrease the bass daily bag limit, or prefer to increase the limit and more likely to prefer to keep the current bass daily bag limit in Henderson Lake.

Table 30. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in Henderson Lake by Region of Respondents' Residence

	West of the Atchafalaya	East of the Atchafalaya
No Opinion	34.0% (80)	40.3% (110)
Keep Current Limit	50.2% (118)	39.9% (109)
Decrease Limit	8.1% (19)	9.2% (25)
Increase Limit	6.0% (14)	10.3% (28)
Other	1.7% (4)	0.4% (1)
Total	100.0% (235)	100.0% (273)

C. Bass Daily Bag Limits in the Lake Verret Complex

The percentage distribution of preferences pertaining to bass bag limits in the Lake Verret Complex among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 31. The differences in the distribution of responses are not statistically significant ($\chi^2_{(df = 4;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 8.079$).

Table 31. Preferences for Bass Bag Limit in the Lake Verret Complex by Region of Respondents' Residence

	Western Parish Respondents	Eastern Parish Respondents
No Opinion	41.0% (96)	36.1% (99)
Keep Current Limit	46.6% (109)	43.1% (118)
Decrease Limit	6.4% (15)	8.4% (23)
Increase Limit	5.1% (12)	11.7% (32)
Other	0.9% (2)	0.7% (2)
Total	100.0% (234)	100.0% (274)

D. Bass Size Limits in the Atchafalaya Basin

The percentage distribution of preferences pertaining to bass size limits in the Atchafalaya Basin among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 32. The differences in the distribution of responses are not statistically significantly ($\chi^2_{(df = 6;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 10.87$).

Table 32. Preferences for Bass Size Limit in the Atchafalaya Basin by Region of Respondents' Residence

	Western Parish Respondents	Eastern Parish Respondents
No Opinion	35.8% (86)	40.0% (112)
Keep Current Size Limit	32.1% (77)	22.9% (64)
No Size Limit	5.8% (14)	8.6% (24)
Decrease Size Limit	12.9% (31)	16.4% (46)
Increase Size Limit	0.4% (1)	1.4% (4)
Slot Limit	11.3% (27)	8.2% (23)
Other	1.7% (4)	2.5% (7)
Total	100.0% (240)	100.0% (280)

E. Bass Size Limits in Henderson Lake

The percentage distribution of preferences pertaining to bass size limits in Henderson Lake among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 33. The differences in the distribution of responses are not statistically significantly ($\chi^2_{(df = 6;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 9.76$).

Table 33. Preferences for Bass Size Limit in Henderson Lake by Region of Respondents' Residence

	Western Parish Respondents	Eastern Parish Respondents
No Opinion	40.8% (98)	46.0% (127)
Keep Current Size Limit	30.8% (74)	22.8% (63)
No Size Limit	4.6% (11)	8.0% (22)
Decrease Size Limit	11.7% (28)	12.3% (34)
Increase Size Limit	0.4% (1)	1.4% (4)
Slot Limit	10.4% (25)	7.2% (20)
Other	1.3% (3)	2.2% (6)
Total	100.0% (240)	100.0% (276)

F. Bass Size Limits in the Lake Verret Complex

The percentage distribution of preferences pertaining to bass size limits in the Lake Verret Complex among respondents residing to the east and west of the Atchafalaya Basin may be seen in Table 34. The differences in the distribution of responses are not statistically significant ($\chi^2_{(df = 4;\ \alpha = 0.05)} = 9.718$).

Table 34. Preferences for Bass Size Limit in the Lake Verret Complex by Region of Respondents' Residence

	Western Parish Respondents	Eastern Parish Respondents
No Opinion	46.4% (110)	42.0% (116)
Keep Current Size Limit	28.7% (68)	23.2% (64)
No Size Limit	4.6% (11)	8.7% (24)
Decrease Size Limit	10.5% (25)	15.9% (44)
Increase Size Limit	0.4% (1)	1.1% (3)
Slot Limit	8.4% (20)	7.2% (20)
Other	0.8% (2)	1.8% (5)
Total	100.0% (237)	100.0% (276)

Appendix 1. Important Issues to Freshwater Recreational Fishing in Louisiana

In the survey respondents were given the opportunity to write out issues that they feel are most important to freshwater recreational fishing in Louisiana. Their response can be found in this appendix.

1 - Pollution. Trash and sewer and run-off. 2. - Poaching. Ignoring creel limits and commercial fishermen taking game fish.
1. Access to areas that “private" landowners in the basin are closing off to recreational fisherman. 2. Carp & Lilies choking off the basin fishing.
5- Boat road identification. 2- Boat Safety. 3- Alcohol and boat operation. 4- Additional Enforcement agents on Saline/Larto to stop alcohol, speeding and safety. 5- Recovery assistance for vehicles, deer, and boats.
Allowing us to fish from the new protection levees is my biggest problem. By the Goose Bayou Bridge in Lafitte is a perfect example. The Locals tell you to leave or they will call police because we are trespassing. We fished there before the levee.
Be very stringent on consuming alcohol while on the water (0 tolerance) and educate the public on the privilege beautiful waterways in Louisiana. One other thing most boaters in Louisiana need to learn is boating and fishing courtesy.
Controlling silver carp population is my biggest concern. I went frog hunting at night when a silver carp jump on my boat and hit me in the face. The fish splitting my face open about one inch long. I have to go to the hospital to get it closed up.
Do away with the 14" limit. Keep the limit the same. Then you keep some small medium and large if you catch one. Stock all as well as bream. Quit letting bass clubs run the fishing in the state.
I think that the trash being dumped is highest concern. You find everything from portable toilets to washing machines. It's amazing how little respect people have to. I also don't like the ruts the 4-wheel drive trucks make.
If I had the choice I would hope to take more control over the sea grass and lilies. They are taking over all our good fishing holes and lakes and making it harder for people like me to go fish. The grass is everywhere and there has to be something done about it.
I've noticed the quality of fish going down after the hurricanes. You can catch all the bass you can, but nothing of the 1 year limit that you can keep. I don’t know exactly the kind of bass that the state restocked the water in my areas but they aren't grown.
Major concerns are the fishing on the Atchafalaya basin. The bass fishing has not been what it was since hurricane Andrew. The 14" size limit has done no help to non-tournament fisherman. Kids lose interest in fishing because catching fish and don’t keep.
One issue I am concern about is having a commercials license and if in the last 2 yrs. I should not have to get a captain to sign my applications. I have my son to fund them for me because I am disabled.

The length limit in the spillway should be 12" and not 14 ". Plenty of 12" to 13" fish are being caught that weight 1 lbs to 1 1/2 lbs and they have to go back! People should be taught not to dirty our waters.
The problem with Patou Bayou Boat landing. There is a serious vandalism problem. There are not enough parking spaces. The prior needs repair on both sides.
We have a camp on Bayou Magguille. When the water gets high, a "no wake" zone should be not only in the effect but signs should be posted for all boats to see before entering the zone. Games wardens give out tickets to boats not aware of “no wake” zone.
I think they should have more places to go fishing on land with our kids. I used to live in Pecan Island before Hurricane Rita, and we used to fish a lot. It would be nice to have somewhere that we could go on land to fish again.
Jet ski operator has no respect for anyone fishing when on the water, so regulate use of the jet ski that are menace to all anglers and get rid of use yo-yo as fishing method. These devices are dangerous to the legitimate fisherman and women.
Take action with litter and trash. The WLF need to take action with size of fish and enforcement with tickets, because people will come back and do the same thing. We need do something about illegal people use false name, because never paid ticket.
The lands that government owns should be marked. Also exotic animals of any type shouldn’t be sold to the american public. Exotic animals harm land, other water animals, plant cycle and us. More tourist, local public for children.
Water control level. Alcohol-free, even on land. Could sell more fresh/salt water licenses to our general public if you did away with that June 30th and made it 1 year. More people would buy more fishing licenses if they only fish 3 month out of the year.
We must not concentrate on the southern part of the Basin. The Mississippi river in Point Coupe Parish needs a boat ramp. The more access to lakes and that available the more dollars will come for Louisiana and the department.
Weed control - the weeds are blocking the river. Logs are stuck and boaters aren't careful. Some boaters don’t slow down, could cause them to flip and suffer boat damage. Littering, see boater and fisherman throwing trash out of their boats.
Help people with ponds etc to stock each year at little to no cost to land owner. Issue a free hunting and fishing license to all senior residents of Louisiana every year or gave them a lifetime permit at age.
Speed limit on public waterway such as the Tickfaw, Amite, Diversion canal, and other rivers. The boats should be able to run any speed they want on open lake and waterway but in limited spaces that state should regulates as safe speed for all boaters.
A no brainer, serious concerns about river access being blocked off. A lot of areas with good fishing for years being cut off with ropes and buoys or gates, a lot around Houma.
Abundance of alligators (large). Water pollution.
Access to "Private" waters. The fish belong to the state and therefore the state’s residents. They should not belong to a select few that have the ability to put up a gate to keep the general public out.
Access to fishing areas. Not being able to fish in favorite locations because of grass, algae, etc.
Access to fishing for youth in Louisiana. Making it fun and attractive so the kids can have a real chance to experience fishing in a local pond, river, stream, lake, etc.

Access to fishing on navigable waterways blocked by landowners.
Accesses to fishing spots without a boat in Baton Rouge. Most ponds are private and fishermen without boat don't have many places to fish without trespassing.
Access to fishing waters for non-boat fisherman.
Access to navigable waters.
Access sites to launch boats/canoes. Landowner issues that interfere with launching and fishing access. Weeds choking up many waterways.
Adequate restocking of certain lakes.
All the areas the oil companies claim to own that are flooded year round and are navigable waterways (Miami Corp). We use to be able to fish all these areas now you have to have permits.
All the trash that fishermen leave. Invasive species both plant and fish.
Any invasive species.
Aquatic weed control and siltation in canal entrances from main water shop in the Basin.
Aquatic weed control and silver carp control. The joy rides who like to pass really close to fishermen to see if they can throw them off balance in their boats and laugh if they do.
Aquatic weed control.
Aquatic weed control. Litter. Stricter regulations on yo-yos. Tougher fines for people using nets and keeping fish over limits and sizes. Abandon self clearing permits on WMAs- waste of time and paper- your license and wma permit is all you should need.
Aquatic weeds and carp population. Access to waterways - knowing if there are okay to fish in.
Aquatic Weeds. Many Places I used to fish are now blocked. The Teche-Vermilion canal was dug in St. Landry Parish. The waterway between Port Barre and Krotz Spring does not flow and this has killed fishing in an area that used to be a sportsman's paradise.
Aquatic Weeds. Land loss in LaBranche wetlands. Places where I used to catch bass are open water contiguous with Lake Pontchartrain.
Bayous silting up. Landowners claiming everything.
Being a tournament fisher, getting to certain areas in the basin is a must for me. Dredging in main channels would help access to the smaller channels. Silver carp also are a big problem in the channels right off the Atchafalaya.
Being sure the fish are protected from natural and manmade disasters. Getting waterways restocked.
Better and more boat landing. Controlling Carp.
Better docks.
Better management of Department owned land and property. Regular drawdowns for vegetation control, better herbicide spray program. Majority of state owned lakes are unusable due to vegetation problems.
Boat ramps. Places to launch kayaks.
Boat rows with marker buoys. Up slot limit on more lakes to at least 14". Night fishing patrol and bow fishing too. Doing away with cane rover permit. Put on more boater safety courses
Boat safety.
Boat safety.
Boater courtesy.

Boater Safety Education. Cleaning up liter in and along LA waterways. Pollution. Shrinking Wetlands. Wetland conservation and protection.
Boating and lack of responsibility. Better clearing of brush when fishing from land.(ex: Spanish Lake in New Iberia).
Change all areas from 14" for bass to 10". We put limit in after hurricane and just before the limit is lifted the next hurricane hits.
Change size limit in spillway to 12". Rose limit in Jackson, Mississippi to 12" and it helped.
Change the size of bass. Keep limit to 13" in the Atchafalaya Basin.
Cleaning up waterways because as a kid we had a lot more canals to fish. Now they are grown up and impassable.
Clean up the litter.
Clean up the trash.
Clean up trash and trees out of the waterways.
Cleaning up byways. Aquatic weeds.
Cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana waterways.
Cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana waterways.
Cleaning up litter. Improving aquatics weed control. Increasing access to fishing areas. Controlling Silver Carp.
Cleaning up pollution in waterways.
Cleaning up the litter is the most important thing.
Cleaning up the litter. I do a lot of fishing and most of the time I spend about 10 minutes picking up trash and debris before actually fishing. This has become very annoying at times.
Cleaning up the waterway and banks.
Cleaning waterways.
Cleaning-up litter along Louisiana waterways so our future generation of kids can enjoy fishing freshwater and saltwater of the bayou state.
Conservation - educate the fishermen on the importance of conservation - keep the little ones and throw the big one back. Maintenance of boat lane on Toledo Bend - there has to be a better way of doing it - it's terrible.
Control of invasive species of plants and animals in and around freshwaters.
Control grass and weeds in spillway.
Control poaching.
Aquatic weed control.
Controlling silver carp population. Posting access to bayous and canals.
Controlling water levels on our lakes such as Toledo Bend. Cleaning our bayous and rivers from pollution such as Plaquemine Bayou and Mermentau River.
Controlling aquatic weeds in Lake Henderson, Miller's Lake, and Lake Chicot.
Controlling by dulls in basin.
Controlling illegal fishing, environment, population, and cleaning.
Controlling the weeds and nutria.

Controlling water in Atchafalaya Basin at some kind of pumping station, have moving water during the hot summer months. Flushing blind river areas at Mississippi River at some kind of diversion from Mississippi River.
Controlling water levels year round in the Basin.
Corps of Engineers blocking natural water flow by levees and control structures. This blocks and inhibits the natural migration and spawning of fish. It also adds to flooding in urban areas.
Corps of engineers' involvement.
Courtesy of boaters.
Docks located near boat ramps so that person without boats can bring children to fish. My grandchildren love to fish but access to areas are limited.
Don't fish freshwater.
Drinking and driving of boats.
Dumping trash. Pollution. Clearing more roads to get to river access. Are fish in False River contaminated?
Easy and safe access to waterways for fishermen with families including small children.
Enjoy fishing LA waters and what it offers. Keep waters clean for our kids to be able to fish. Common carp control. Waterways should provide access for everyone to enjoy.
Emphasis on the catch-and-release philosophy as it relates to largemouth bass. Increase of applications of slots for largemouth bass. Establishment of large minimum size limit for largemouth bass and smaller creel limit.
Finding safe places to go close to home.
Fish kills. Pollution. Better access for handicapped fishermen.
Fishing Access.
Fishing access to all parts of the Atchafalaya Basin.
Fishing access.
Fishing trot-line for fisherman to remove from water when finished fishing not leave them out. Also those fishing yo-yo's check often don't let fish died and that is a waste and less fish for our grand kids.
Fishing access in state waters. Boating laws and catch limits
Give us more public boat ramps.
Good quality fish and wake zones enforced in Butte/La Rose Canal area.
Good state boat ramps and water lily control.
Grass in Henderson Lake!!!
Handicap access ability for all and disabled veterans.
Having more access points to Toledo Bend during times of low water.
Having more places to launch your boat.
Hunting clubs stop fishermen from fishing during hunting season.
Hydrilla in Henderson Lake which seems to keep coming back yearly.
I do not fish because I do not have a boat. I take my grandson bank fishing.
I enjoy fishing in Louisiana.

I fish mainly in bayous. There is no LDWF presence that I have seen. Drunks, guns, drunks with guns in boats. Illegal gator trapping using yo-yo's and mid-life crisis men with his boat (300 Mercury) screaming through the bayou near Port Vincent.
I have fished in north Louisiana and noticed the landing facilities are very nice along Red River, Toledo Bend, and other locations in north Louisiana. Why do we not have those facilities in southern Louisiana?
I have none because I have not lived in Louisiana and I have not done any fishing since I have moved.
I have to drive a long way to fish because most areas are posted or have fences or gates up. In our area around Vidalia we don't have a lot of areas to fish without a boat.
I really don't fish freshwater enough to comment.
I think that the size limit for bass needs to be 12" with a limit of 10 bass. I would even like to see a slot for bass.
I think that skis and jet-skis should have their own place to go so they don't bother people who are trying to fish.
I think we need clean up the fishing areas and people should catch only what they can eat and not waste.
I wish they would enforce some speeding laws on the water. Those people have no concern for anybody fishing or for anybody safety.
I would like to be able to go back to Luck Lake, see the litter cleaned up, and people fined for littering there. Would like to see the game warden patrol more, and fine the ones with more than one rod and reel.
I would like to see more freshwater released into Bayou Lafourche which would reduce saltwater intrusion. Would like to see the release of extra fingerlings into Bayou Lafourche.
I'm having a great time. Keep up the good work.
Improving aquatic weed control.
Improving aquatic weed control.
Improving aquatic weed control.
In my area we need more state boat landings.
In some lakes the aquatic weeds are so bad that none can get close to the banks to fish.
In south Louisiana there is not much freshwater. In places where there is freshwater its private property or someone claims they own the land.
Increase stocking of lakes. Better control of water levels that tend to improve fishing at prime times of year. Adjust the size requirements to allow fishermen to keep more fish.
Industrial pollution.
Information on fishing areas.
Intrusion of saltwater into freshwater waterways. Debris in rivers such as floating trees and stumps.
Invasive plants to our freshwater systems.
Invasive weed control. Invasive fish control. Urban fishing availability.
It seems LDWF controls aquatic weeds as well as resources allow. I think that continued efforts to slow/eradicate giant salvinia, weather hyacinths, hydrilla, etc. are extremely important. Control silver carp.

Just bought property In Des Allmend, and Bayou behind is clogged with mud & aquatic plants. Hope to clear and be able to freshwater fish this year.
Just wish the focus was on the wonderful lakes. And more focused on bringing up the population of bass in order to make competitive and recreational fishing more fun.
Keep water moving and clean in Henderson Lake area.
Keeping all of the canals clean. Fixing all boat launches.
Keeping good freshwater in the Atchafalaya Basin for fishermen's sports fishing and commercial fishermen.
Keeping jet-skis out of prime fishing areas.
Keeping litter out of waterways.
Keeping our water clean.
Keeping our waters clean and irresponsible fishermen out of the waters.
Keeping the water clean.
Keeping water clean and safe.
Keeping water clean.
Keeping waterways clean. Getting rid of false idle zones.
Keeping waterways open and clear of sand bars and any other obstructions.
Lack of access to public waters for persons without boats.
Lack of fish.
Landowner encroachment on public waterway. Restocking of public waters.
Landowner gating off canals to prevent access.
Landowners and fishing access. Improved management for size and quality of fish - especially bass. Restoring Atchafalaya Basin fishery to its previous quality.
Lilies and grass are taking over fishing areas. I have seen canals that you can no longer travel because of lilies and grass. Some areas are overfished and fishermen have no regard for limits to size.
Limit amounts should be higher.
Limit on lakes have a lot of small fish and they have slots were to keep the bigger fish and release the smaller fish. I think the bigger fish need to be released and keep smaller fish.
Limited access to different waterways.
Limited access for non-boaters on many lakes.
Limits. Weeds. Boat launches.
Limits. Vegetation.
Liter and trash in the waters.
Litter.
Litter and inadequate enforcement of litter laws.
Litter and weed control.
Litter and weed control.
Litter in waterways. Preventing infestation of silver carp.
Litter.
Litter. If we don't stop this one day, there wouldn't be any waterway clean to fish. trash can at all boat ramps. This is a must!

Litter. Pollution. Our fishing areas.
Loss of water flow causing stagnant water areas in the spillway. Canals silting in the spillway. Largemouth bass fish kills from natural disasters. Restocking programs. Size limits vs. slot limits.
Lowering water level.
Maintaining a consistent water level at Toledo Bend.
Maintaining and keeping our marshes clean and beautiful.
Maintaining the ecosystem to support the fish.
Maintaining trash barrels at boat launches because people don't know that they can take trash home. Maintaining a Port-O-Potty at all major boat launches would be great for sanitary reasons. The lakes with 14-17" slot limits are keeping fishermen away.
Make sure that people stay within legal creel limits.
Making sure the carp don't populate. I'm a big fan of bow fishing and wish more people around here did so. We don't want our waterways and lakes to become like other states. Keep hydrilla out of Henderson Lake.
Management of Henderson Lake fish kills, weed control, and water levels. The majority of the bass population in Henderson Lake is quite small (95% below legal limit).
Marshes and canals moving.
Mercury levels and continued oil drilling in freshwater areas.
More access through boat ramp additions.
More and more areas being declared off limits to recreational boating and fishing even though the areas are navigable waterways.
More maps.
More restrictions on boat speed. I have had some close calls with big boats that have no respects for anyone else. I am tired of seeing good fish go bad because good fish are left hanging on yo-yo's.
Most important issue to me is getting rid of the weeds and grass in the canal.
Mostly the trash, because it makes our state look ugly.
People not practicing catch and release of large female during the spawning season. These fish should not be kept for human consumption! There should be some sort of limit enforced during the spawn.
Navigable waterway fishing vs. landowner rights.
Need a large recreational lake in southern Louisiana similar to Toledo Bend somewhere the Amite, Franklinton, or within that area. Bayou Chitta River above Franklinton would be ideal for both Louisiana and Mississippi.
Need boat ramps that are wide and safe.
Need more boat ramps. More locations open to the public to fish. More programs pushing catch and Release.
Need more fish stocking in small lakes.
Need more Florida bass.
Need to be better about educational message on the importance of catch and release to preserve the fish for future generations.
Need to dredge all bayous- Bayou long. Duck Lake. The 21" pipeline.

Need to drop False River and plant grass back. Size limits on the bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, spillway, etc. I think that you should be able to keep 13" fish.
Need to put out signs to let people know where they are. The waterway is too large. It is easy to get turned around and signs would help.
No pollution. Stock for more fish for future.
Not enough areas to enter into body of water.
Not enough boat ramp to fish in the river.
Not enough public fishing places for families
Oil field pollution. Land and inland well location.
Opelousas Gates and flooding Henderson
Over fishing and lack of habitat.
Over fishing, people posting off fishing areas that are public and making it theirs, knowing what is public and what private.
Over spraying of natural aquatic grasses. Very moderate spraying should be used to allow boat access to areas but not complete elimination of grasses.
Over the limit fishing.
People keeping legal size and limits. Water being taken over by inferior fish.
People keeping over the limit or undersized.
People need to learn cleaning up after themselves. People should be responsible for their stuff. I think they teach that in first grade. Maybe we need more teaching about being responsible.
People put up no trespassing signs on land that isn't theirs.
Places you can go and fish without being told you cannot because of private property or having to have permits.
Polluting the waterways.
Pollution.
Pollution of waterways from farming. Litter. Oilfield and Chem-troil from aircraft and spraying aluminum.
Pollution.
Pollution. Weed control. Increase amount of shrimp that can be caught by cast net.
Pollution. Invasive species. Fishing areas for non-boaters.
Pollution.
Poor or no access to public waters. LDWF facilities and ramps not maintained. Restricted access to public water because of landowners padding the politician's pockets!!
Poor water quality. Lack of cover/structures i.e., siltation and urban run-off. Inadequate sewage treatment.
Population. Evasive species of plants and animals.
Post-hurricane- produce more fish population. Fishing access- especially in flood plain/block water areas. Control eradication of foreign fish species. Habitat protection.
Preservation of the habitat (oil, trash, and land erosion).
Private landowners are blocking access to waterways and lakes in our area which were previously public access. More visibility of enforcement agents is needed to deter DWI boaters and poachers stealing from traps, etc.

Proper fisheries management. Commercial over fishing.
Proper management of our fishery and water quality.
Protecting wildlife.
Protection and preservation of native wildlife. This issue could be addressed by enforcing game laws and cleaning the litter from our waterways. Research and development should gain support because their input is valuable for preserving our waterways.
Providing safe areas for fishing by controlling alligators in the small lakes and ponds.
Public access to accommodate overnight or weekend. More public launches.
Public Access to fishing in canals from bridges (like Florida, where there are several public fishing piers.
Publish method to receive emergency service assistance when needed.
Quality of the water.
Resolving issues related to landowners and access to waterways and increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps and fishing piers.
Resolving landowner and fishing access issues.
Restock after fish kills from storms.
Restocking program.
Restricted access to freshwater bayous.
Run-off pollution from refineries and crops.
Safety of people driving boats and getting logs out of open areas for boats to pass.
Safety on water-no drinking
Safety, the lack of on-water available safety assistance.
Safety.
Safety. Too many people drinking while operating water craft.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion.
Saltwater intrusion. Lack of boat ramps.
Saltwater intrusion. Land loss due to pipeline canals.
Saltwater intrusion. I live in central Louisiana however I travel south to fish occasionally. Over the years the salinity of the water is migrating further north.
Siltation in the Atchafalaya Basin and coastal erosion.
Silver Carp.
Since I am a fly fishier, more access to small waterways is important.
Size limit of black bass in Atchafalaya Basin and the restocking of fisheries hit by last storms. Accessible boat ramps to the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge that has parking and lights.
Size limit on bass in Atchafalaya Basin. Would like to see a slot limit. Something like 15-18".
Size limit on crappie (too many small fish kept).

Size limits on fish. Check what people keep.
Slot limit in Catouwachi area.
Slot limits on largemouth bass. Providing more information on our fresh and salt fish. Keeping out freshwater canals. Flowing with freshwater and not silting up.
Slowing down the big boats when approaching smaller boats.
Snakehead and Carp.
Some areas have poor aquatic weed control.
Some places needs more lighting and land cleared off.
Speeders on the water.
Spillway bass limit size needs to be lowered to 12". Several trips we caught 20-30 fish and could not bring any home to eat.
Stop eating the edge of Gulf Waters and keep saltwater from coming into freshwater.
Stop fishermen from taking the eggs from Shoepic. Have a limit on Shoepic, no more than 10 Shoepic per fishermen or less than 10.
Stop killing grassing lares.
Stop putting no fishing signs in Cameron Parish.
STOP! Spraying the grass in order to control it decreases population of fish. It provides oxygen, food chain, and etc. more stocking programs (shad and bass). Create more diversions in poor fisheries. Enforce 5 a day bass limit all of LA.
Take abandoned boats out of waterways.
Thank you. Have to lift the limit and size of bass to regain a good population.
The 14-inch limit in the spillway. It has been many years since this rule was in place and it has not benefits fisherman. It is my opinion that removing the size limits and reduces the limit to 5 from 10.
The 14" size limit in the spillway is stupid. I would like to keep smaller fish and throw back the bigger. If you want to make a slot make it 16"-20", not over 14".
The blocking and restricting access to fish by landowner.
BP has singlehandedly dumped millions of gallons of toxins into a vast and natural ecological system with little or no regard for its actions (they partied just hours after the explosion), they are arrogant of the future.
The cleaning of canals.
The effect of recent hurricanes in the area that I fish in.
The following of the law on dirty catch limit.
The limit on amount and size of bass. There should be more public boat launches.
The limit on size and amount on bass.
The litter and alligators are over populating waters.
The man made waterway and byways.
The most important freshwater fishing issues concerning Louisiana are unstable water levels throughout the year, litter, the silver carp, and the destruction of sufficient aquatic vegetation needed to draw bigger bass.
The most important issue is toxins. Locating chemical dumps from 1940-60 which are now leaching into water supplies (buried illegally by long gone companies who buried them in swamps).

The most important issue to me is the stop of litter and keeping freshwater clean.
The numbers of yo-yos people are allowed to run. Along with that, having a specified time for them to be set out and removed from waterways. They make navigating the water difficult in some areas.
The pollution that is flowing to our water ways and starving this fish for air.
The private posting of areas.
The size of the fish should be 12 inches instead of 16 inches.
The trash dumped into the water where fishermen are able to fish in freshwater. The trash also kills the animal population. If trash was cleaned up it would help Louisiana look like a better place and allow more fishing.
The water levels in the basin need to be controlled. Some places are not getting fresh moving water at all.
The water lilies are plugging up many canals and bayous that I fish. Also they are silting up making them impassable and unfishable.
There should be daily limits on all species of fish so that there are bigger, more plentiful fish. Growing up there were way more fish and bigger fish than present day.
There's not much wrong of big concern to myself. Most boat launches are a little dirty with litter, but it's not bad. I usually have a good time fishing.
To go to these places and be able to fish.
To make sure fish is eatable.
To make sure fishing is here for years to come.
Too many laws.
The litter problem with it sitting on the banks of the rivers.
Too many anglers killing fish (bass) during spawning season. Would like to see slot limit on largemouth bass between 17 and 21 in Bayou Segnette area.
Too many fishermen. Not enough space to fish. Hurricanes kill fishing holes and bream holes. Size limit on bass in Ascension Parish. I have seen 10" Bass kept Bayou Manchac, Amite River, and Deman Canal. Put a size Limit 14" or above.
Too many Garfish consuming game fish in public waterways. Difficulty fishing anywhere around Atchafalaya floodway system.
Too many high powered boats. Too much drinking on the water.
Too many people going too fast on the waters and drinking while boating. Not enough many in the budget for WLF for more officers to patrol.
Too many people keeping more than daily limit. In areas like Lake Catauatche too many big fish are being taken. LDWF needs funds to patrol and enforce the present creel limits and any future dangers.
Too much grass in Henderson lake.
Too much trash in waterways. Weed control.
Too much weeds.
Trash near rivers and in the water.
Trash!!! When I go fishing I clean up other peoples' trash and I feel they bring it they should take it. The locks in Port Allen are closed now due to trash and my dad used to go fishing there and he took me there when I got my license. Now it's closed.

Try to be more polite to each other, especially big bass boats that make wakes when in small canals.
Want more fish and fewer fishermen.
Water access and water condition.
Water Contamination. Restocking.
Water control - keeping lake levels close to where they need to be. Seems like every time fishing is good someone seems to jack with the water levels.
Water level controls of Henderson Lake need to be better maintained. Silver carp are a very serious problem. Many sportsmen like me have been nearly injured by these invasive species. Invasive aquatic grasses are becoming a serious problem.
Water lilies are blocking waterways such as Lake Mims and Grand River flats to shallow waterways in summer.
Water lilies. Irresponsible watercraft drivers.
Water quality. Invasive species of foreign aquatic life and plants.
Water quality. Weed control. Invasive species control. Public access.
Water quality (oil).
Water silting-up, needs dredging. Better level control on Henderson. Freshwater diversion projects.
We can only fish on wildlife over the levee everything is posted but they got cattle and horses on the property. We buy license but we cannot fish in the pits over the levee.
We should be able to use perch, Bluegill, and sunfish for bait to catch catfish.
We should know how clean up the fishing area. Just how good/safe are the fish are to eat?
Weed control.
Weed control and carp.
Weed control and population.
Weed control.
Weed control.
Weed control. Access to public waterways.
Weed control. Pollution. Safety on waterways.
Weeds and more land to hunt and fish on in swamp areas and Atchafalaya Basin and could make problem birds legal to hunt with a limit.
When you are catching fish you want to pull along side of boat and start fishing. Or people will go and jump ahead of boat and start fishing.
With regards to A, Henderson Lake and spillway are very much becoming unfishable. So much weeded areas in the water are inaccessible.
You need to eliminate the slot limit. Just make a 5 bass limit per person.

Appendix 2. General Comments and Suggestions

In the survey respondents were given the opportunity to give general comments or suggestions. Their response can be found in this appendix.

1. We need more access to public surf fishing areas. 2. Higher fines for trashing our beaches and saltwater water-ways. 3. Slow down your boat. What's the hurry?
I had heard a problem from anglers that private citizens or groups buying up land rights in the Delacroix & Hopedale areas and then telling fisherman they cannot use the waterways to travel or fish in. I find this problem outrageous!
I am discouraged by litter I see when fishing in public areas. Grand Isle looks the best it ever has because BP has picked the trash and oil. I would also like to see recycling occur at Grand Isle and other fishing destinations.
I can understand making a long size on hoop net fishing, because commercial fishermen always like to bring in too many small fish.
I have a suggestion on the basin in Charnton beach boat launch needs to be worked on the boat landing or the grass in Chaney pond across from the beach is too thick something needs to be done about it.
I moved to different located after hurricane Katrina. I primarily fished in salt water around Black Bay, American Bay, and Oak River. Although I did do some bass fishing in Slidell areas. Hurricanes fishing related issues have controlled a lot of my fishing.
I spent lot money and time outdoor fishing for bass. We need to start culling a lot small bass in the water and my areas. Remember when you can go.
If enforcement of the current laws was more of a presence in south Louisiana. I do not know of any drastic changes that need to be made. A small group of people that have no regard for the states game laws can have a huge impact on certain areas.
If you carry a Resident Sr. Hunt/ Fish Permit in Louisiana you should be able to keep 10 bass at 12 inch. When you are this old you are put food on the table, not for sport. Due to the size limit in Bell River I could keep one bass.
I'm mostly concerned on the grass issue. I have a son who is five years old and he love to fish, but the problem is the grass so high (5 feet.) that we are not able to fish.
My only concerns are the slot limit. The LDWF catering to the tournament fishermen and forgetting about the people who fish for fun or to eat. My kids no longer want to fish in the basin for bass because of this.
Open up more access to fisherman along Vermillion corp. & Superior lake canal draw bridge. More areas are being posted and you see no activity in those areas which would interfere with these companies.
Reason for my no size limit answer is because I would rather keep smaller fish to eat and let the bigger fish go for spawning or when I fish in tournaments. I will tell people to keep 11"-12" fish to eat and let all other go.
It drives me crazy when big business influences the environment. They say they help. There are three areas that I grew up fishing. Now they have poles, barrels, and wires across the waterway. Three areas with hydrilla and ductweeds making dead end canals.

Several weeks ago, I was fishing in Lake Bouce and aquatic weeds were so bad that I had keep stopping and cleaning the propeller to keep it from stalling. Also a full listing of all boat launches available would be very helpful.
The changes are made in the Atchafalaya Basin should also be made in the lake surrounding that area. A slot limit seems to work fine at some of the lake in the northern of the state. You can eat the smaller fish that you catch and able get the trophy.
We should only keep enough fish to eat for 1 day. Don't take what you can't eat in a day it seems all the good old spots are overfished. Fishing license should be 1 yrs. From date of purchase that way its fish to everyone who buys one.
In all fishing areas you should only be allowed 1 reel, everyone at Duck Lake fishes.
More patrolling on the river. Keeping the larger speed boats under control. So much drinking and carelessness it's just accidents waiting to happen. There are so many under age kids that can't control them going too fast.
Please investigate the possibilities of slowing all river boats to speeds under 55 mph, because I prevent one or two boating accidents when I go to Tickfaw or Amite River. Driving too fast in the rivers is dangerous and dumb.
The Atchafalaya Basin should be developed and advertised like riding trails, cabins, etc. This just would not just generate money but give local and children that are in need of construction activity a good and exciting adventure.
Be very stringent on consuming alcohols while on the water (0 tolerances) and educate the public on the privilege beautiful waterways in Louisiana. One other thing most boaters in Louisiana need to learn is boating and fishing curtsey.
I take my family recreational crabbing several times a year. Word is that soon we will need a license for crabbing. I don't think that should be a license. The limit is 12 dozen. Per vehicle! While requiring a license will not affect us because we will still crab.
All tournaments should be delayed because of fog till it cleared. I was in an accident, because of fog in Texas, FLW tournaments.
At my age I still fish but not as much.
Attitudes of agents - uphold the law and be very nice!
Available online and elsewhere to get up to data waterways maps.
Bass fished my whole life. Fished in tournaments since I was 16. Started bow fishing 8 years ago. Silver carp is a problem - shoot as many as possible.
We use to catch bass, freshwater blue catfish, and redfish in Bayou Chawin. Now Bass are far and few and I have not caught a Blue Catfish in approximation 10 yrs. Salt water intrusion.
Bayou Sorrell, Bayou Pigeon, and Belle River boat landings are terrible. I say we have a boat ramp fee and use it to clean up all boat ramps.
Be more selective on who gets license.
Bow hunting for red fish should be outlawed! On several occasions on trips to the port Sulphur area I have gone in shallow ponds where I target red fish and found dozens of dead 5-15 pound red fish with arrow holes in them. Disgraceful!
Change daily limit for redfish from 5 to 7.
Clean trash and abandoned boats out of waterways.
Clean up Louisiana waterway and highway

Convince the Corps of Engineers to allow more water into the basin area. Let's find a way to make the basin more productive and protect it for the future.
Deer doe season should be closed south of La 335 Vermillion. Low deer count after Katrina and Rita. Closed for 4 years to bring deer back.
Do more inspection at well site. Do inspection when well pressure is done and after work is completed within 24 hours. Who will pump out any tank on location Companies should put company name and phone number and where fluid will be dumped on tanks.
Do something about the grass in Henderson Lake.
Do what you feel like. I don't fish enough to make any difference.
Enforce litter laws. Please be tolerant of a small amount of beer drinking.
Enforcement of creel limits is the key to producing better fishing statewide. A protective slot in the Basin and a statewide limit of 5 bass would help fishing. Look at the success of the redfish population. More effort to control saltwater intrusion.
Filled by husband.
Fishing in Louisiana is very different from fishing and anywhere else in the US. I have fisher from Louisiana to Iowa and LA is the only place where 15' is considered deep. If we could get some deeper reservoirs it would help tournament anglers adapt.
Fishing should be free for persons 65 and older.
Game Warden needs to stop checking black recreational fisherman only, when there are white fishermen around also. This is very upsetting when I witness this kind of action.
Give fishermen chance to go out and fish places without worrying about where you are or having to have permits to fish in areas that you have always fished.
Give some warden's back their guns and let them do their jobs of protecting fish and wildlife. Outlaws with no gun no one would face off with some of the idiots out there at this day and time, using illegal hoop nets and killing wildlife out of season.
Had a heart attack in January 2008 and have not been fishing or hunting until 2010.
Have more up to date maps of the Atchafalaya Basin with water depth and channel marking.
Have not live or fished for years here. Lived in other states FL & SC.
Help control problem birds and animals.
Help.
Hope I have helped- Love to fish- What a Joy!
How do I get a hunting license? What do I have to do? Please, let me know.
I am a bank fisherman who uses state parks and recreational areas. Would like to have information about access for bank fishing.
I am a recreational boater and fisher and sight seer. The state would be nicer without the trash in the waterways.
I am not a fisherman.
I am probably not a good person to surveying for this study because I rarely hunt or fish.
I believe steady water levels and better methods for controlling the grass would make our public lakes more productive. I believe we could have great fisheries if we implemented a slot limit.
I believe that we need more wardens and police on public waters to keep limits in effect. Considering the budget cuts I feel the department does a good job.

I believe you should not waste any fish you catch. You should be able to keep and eat all fish you catch.
I broke both wrists 2 years and my husband had open heart surgery this year. We have not been fishing in 2 years but plan on starting again in 2011.
I crawfish for a living during the spring. I need freshwater at a steady flow. When the current stops flowing they die in the traps.
I did not fish in freshwater.
I did not fish or hunt in Louisiana 2009. I have a pond in my backyard and I fish there.
I do a little fishing occasionally with my grandson but not enough to talk about.
I do not fish.
I don't fish but I bring my step-children and wife so they can fish so I buy a fishing license to take them.
I don't fish in the Atchafalaya Basin. You should focus your concerns on other areas of the state. Most departments owned areas (lakes) are abandoned. It's a shame that all these lands are going to waste.
I don't like to fish. Obtained license to stop nagging spouse.
I don't usually buck the system but this takes it all - what a waste of tax payers' money!
I feel that south Louisiana landings are a disgrace. I am ashamed for someone out of state to see these locations. The funding in north Louisiana really been good. All of their facilities have very clean well managed bathroom facilities.
I fish once and a while.
I fish only to see if I can catch anything. I don't keep anything. Not like I have caught anything.
I fish the Lake Marupaus area and would like to see as much effort put into this area after storms (hurricanes) as got put into the Atchafalaya Basin area after storms as far as re-stocking effort.
I fished once in last year with rod and reel. This does not apply to me.
I fished saltwater until about 2004. Now I hunt deer and occasionally small game. I respect LDWF for the good work they do.
I generally fish for sac-au-lait, catfish, and other freshwater fish.
I have not fish in about 12-14 years.
I have not had time to fish.
I hope this survey and others will help our wildlife and fisheries recreation areas. More clean and environmentally safe.
I like saltwater fishing the best.
I like the way fishing is now. Thank you for letting me fill out the survey.
I like to fish in Vermilion Bay mainly because of proximity to my home.
I like to see the bobber go under and basically relax. I don't care if I catch a thing. I enjoy spending time with my son and family.
I love fishing Gibson. No size limits!!!
I need to learn freshwater so I can enjoy it more. Talking to other fisherman around they would like to see the limit stay the same but put a slot on what you can keep.

I only fish about 2 or time a year, so it's hard for me to answer some of the questions from this survey.
I only recreationally fish. I only go fishing for fun with family, mostly crabbing.
I only saltwater fish so I couldn't comment on most of the survey.
I primarily fish saltwater.
I really would like it if all fish species would have daily limits so our future would be better in their fishing recreation. All of our kids and grandkids would appreciate it and thank us later.
I rely on LDWF to set laws and regulations in place to follow in order for our kids to have as much enjoyment as possible when they become older and pass on to their kids.
I surf fish and fish using a boat.
I think LDWF did a good job reacting to and managing a very difficult situation with the BP oil spill. Keep up the good work!
I think that the bag limit for redfish should be raised to 10 fish per person, but keep the size limit as is.
I think that the bass tournaments should not be allowed during the months the bass are spawning. They catch these fish ride them around in a live well all day and then release them at some landing and think that it doesn't hurt them. Well, I disagree.
I think that the limit on red fish should be increased to 10 just like the limit on bass.
I think that the size limit of 14" is ok but I think that it should be adjusted to where we could keep 5 bass under 14" and 5 bass over 14". There are so many small bass in the spillway that it hurts the larger bass.
I think that this survey deals with bass fishing too much. What about people who fish flounder, a sport fish with a limit and caught by thousands of pounds and sold by commercial fishermen.
I think that wildlife agents should spend more time at launches and check the size of fish coming in.
I think you all are doing a good job. Keep up the good work.
I was shocked to hear from you guys. Keep up the good work.
I will probably slow-down my fishing even more going forward.
I wonder what more intelligent states like California and Florida would do if a multi-million dollar corporation came and set-up a nuclear reactor, mismanaged it, hired people it had in its gas stations to petition that they were going to "make it right".
I would change the size limits on the fish because it costs too much money for fishing trips, e.g., food, gas, ice, etc.
I would like for you all to build a boat launch at the south end of Ponchatoula, just as you get on the Interstate 55 high-rises. People break into your vehicle at Roudike but it's almost at Laplace.
I'd like to see a yearly printout of lakes that are restocked - each year and how often.
If a person forgets his license he should get a warning. Don't have penalty for first offense.
In salt water areas games wardens need to work at night. Outlawed gill nets at night. People with $150,000.00 bay boats usually have the money for fishing licenses.
Increase the size for spotted trout to 14". Reduce the daily limit to 25. Increase the black drum limit to 10 day.

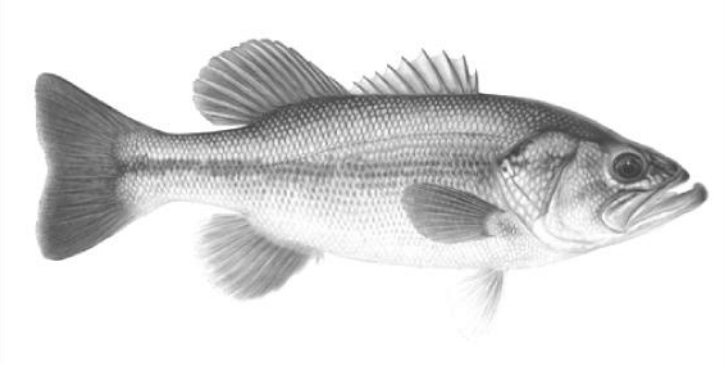
Invasive species are my main concern along with saltwater intrusion of our freshwater estuaries.
It would be good if there were more places to fish in Cameron Parish. Limit on bull redfish should be 2 per person rather than 1.
It's been more than 20 years since I've fished.
Just keep up with the fishing and hunting areas so my kids and I can keep going and enjoying life like I did when I was a kid.
Just wishing we had somewhere to go on land near our home to fish.
Kayak fishermen probably will fish freshwater more next year.
Keep fishing fun for part-time fisherman and for our kids.
Keep replacing or replenishing fish when needed.
Keep water clean of bad grass and lilies and maintain state docks ramps. When new ramps are built be sure they are not too steep with good lighting.
LDWF agents need shade on their boats.
Level control structures for WMA related lake areas need to be maintained. The structure at Larto located on the southwest end of lake has a bad leak in the center gate. This is causing the lake (Saline and Larto complex) water level to be low.
Like to fish for fun. Want to see this for the kids later in life.
Limit is too low on redfish.
Limit the daily catch for crappie to 15 per person.
Love to fish bream with fly rod. Need size limit in Ascension Parish so bass can grow.
Lower size limits would make it more fun for children to keep their fish.
More enforcement to stop gill netting.
More patrols by Wildlife and Fisheries agents because of people being over the limit for largemouth bass.
More piers in waterways for people unlike myself who don't own boats. Open some of the state owned lands with ponds to fishermen. Refurbish Baton Rouge boat ramp access to Mississippi river.
More public boat ramps.
More Public saltwater ramps; ramps are getting expensive! More access for kayak fishermen.
Most of the questions were about fishing which I do little of. Most of my fishing is the saltwater marsh.
Mostly we went crabbing. We fished while we were there. Due to oil spill fishing no longer interests me. I will not bring bad crabs home to my family.
My biggest concern is access to fishing areas in the coastal marsh. All tidal waterways should be available to fishermen.
My main use of DWF facilities, wildlife management areas, and waterways/forests in Louisiana is for non-consumptive activities: Hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, exploring
Need more places in marshlands open to the public for fishing, crabbing, and crawfishing. Need more control of carp population. Make a mandatory catch and release of all bluefin tuna caught off of gulf shore of Louisiana.
0 days fishing in 2010.

On a trip to Grand Isle our group was harassed by LDWF agents. We were crabbing with nets and an agent said we had to have licenses. A few in the group didn't have fishing licenses so they were forced to get licenses even thought they never fish.
On saltwater fishing you should be able to keep one under 16" for redfish. Keep amount limits the same.
Overall I think that the Wildlife and Fisheries department does a good job.
People are fishing without license and are throwing fish by the pond to die. I think it is cruel. They fish next to me and brag about it.
Place protective slot limit for a minimum length on crappie.
Please continue to do all you can to protect the gift god gave us. I am very grateful for all you do.
Please keep up the great work you do for all of us sportsmen and sportswomen. We do need all of you doing your best to keep all wildlife safe and there for us.
Please mail me a tide calendar each year and let me know where these are available for Grand Isle, Leesville, and Fourchon areas.
Please stop fishermen from taking eggs from Shoepic. It's getting harder and harder to go alongside of the road to catch Shoepic to feed my family.
Please try to make people aware not to throw things into the state's waterways.
Remove grasses lakes that make them impassible with a normal motor. Outlaw completely yoyo as a fishing method or use a tagging method with fee high enough to discourage use.
Respect and polite behavior from people in "go fast boats" (cigarette boats, etc) skiers and jet skiers when we are trying to fish.
Restock the Amite, Lake Pontchartrain Basin. Press for water quality improvement. Revalidated banks.
Save coastline.
Should be able to catch 7-8 redfish instead of 5.
Should only be able to keep 2 bass above 16".
Something needs to be done about silver carp.
Sorry not much help. Do not fish in areas that are questioned on survey.
Sorry that I couldn't answer some questions. Not much time to fish now.
Stock up more fish in the Basin in areas such as Bayou Beniot, Bean Bayou, and Philipp Canal. Always keep freshwater in the Basin. Bass keep size should be 12" long.
Tell me when I can find good fish to eat. I don't want to pollute water. Marks launch areas on state maps.
Thank you for the survey.
The 14-inch size limit in the Basin is not working!!
The Atchafalaya Basin needs to have more water flow through the northern lock. Henderson water levels and invasive grass need more funding and research to be put towards management. That is so improperly managed.
The beauty of what we have here is not appreciated. My husband and I fish for recreation and relaxation. We keep decent size catch for food. Maybe a restriction on lines strung across smaller areas.

The growing number of hunting clubs has greatly reduced the tree land to hunt small game. I don't hunt at all anymore because of this.
The WLF police need to take more severe actions with illegal people they catch everything and don't matter the regulations on size. They said, "I give them the false number of social security and false name to and continued fishing at same place".
There should be at least a 12" limit on Red River and Saline/Larto.
There are a lot of canals on the spillways side of Belle River that are full of grass. Those canals used to produce a lot of crappie and bass. There should be a spray program to kill the grass.
There have been no new lakes added in the state for flood control and/or irrigation for many years. There are old lakes and bayous that could be restored with little difficulty. These restorations could spread tourism money to rural areas of the state.
This survey was completed by my spouse, who is an avid fisherman and could answer more effectively.
There is no reason to have a 14" limit on bass south of Interstate 90. There should be a 5 fish limit on a protective slot limit as I suggested. True bass fishermen enjoy the skill it takes to catch the fish and also enjoy the table fair it generates.
Too many rules. Train children, they grow to be adults hopefully they train their children hence the cycle of taking care of your own stuff and being responsible for self.
Too many abandoned trot-lines on lower Amite River and Lake Maurepas. Spear fishing should be evaluated for setting seasons and special size and count limits.
Too many large alligators in basin.
Too many people killing deer at night.
We both fish husband and wife.
We like to camp in state parks. More facilities such as wharfs for older and disabled citizens could be better use for fishing. Advice on fish that are prevalent and what bait is usually used.
We need to keep waterways open to the public and not private. If they are private there need to be signs posted. I have been run out of canals by people who said they were private waterways.
We should be charging higher prices for fishing/hunting licenses to out-of-state guests. We pay out-the-nose to hunt/fish in Mississippi.
When I do get an opportunity to fish I am a costal fisherman. My concerns are the ongoing testing to ensure saltwater species are safe to consume. I hope this testing is a priority for the department in the years ahead.
Why are questions 14-16 just for these areas? Not everyone fishes these areas and they are of no concern to many people. There are other areas we fish that have the same problems. A minimum size at all lakes would be preferred by everyone I have talked to.
Why don't you'll actually do one like this on hunting? Between WMA's and private land.
Wildlife and Fisheries agents do a great job in this area for sure. The ones I have met are very cordial and helpful.
Without coastal restoration our fisheries may be doomed.
Would like to see largemouth bass restocking efforts around Terrebonne Parish. I loved to bass fish but last two hurricanes caused saltwater intrusion and caused bass catches to be reduced.

Would love to fish for red snapper if the limit was higher. It's too expensive for only two red snapper.
You should ask about saltwater fishing and the affect on it since the Oil Spill.

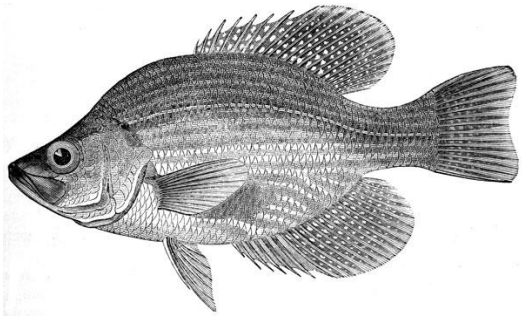
Appendix 3. Questionnaire



LOUISIANA
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

2010 FISHING SURVEY



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 2010 Fishing Survey

1. How would you describe yourself?

   A. A recreational fisherman only
   B. A recreational fisherman and a hunter
   C. A hunter only (If you answered "C", please skip to question 19 on page 8.)

2. How many years have you been recreational fishing?

   _____ Years

3. How many days did you go saltwater fishing in Louisiana in 2009? (If you did not go saltwater fishing in 2009, please enter "0" and to Question 5 below.)

   _____ Days in saltwater in 2009

4. What species do you target when you fish in saltwater? (Mark all that apply.)

   □ I do not fish in saltwater.

   A. Red Fish
   B. Spotted seatrout
   C. Flounder
   D. Sheepshead
   E. Black Drum
   F. Other (Please specify) _____

5. How many days did you go freshwater fishing in Louisiana in 2009?
   (If you did not go freshwater fishing in 2009, please enter "0" and skip to question 17 on page 8.)

   _____ Days in freshwater in 2009

6. What species do you target when you fish in freshwater? (Mark all that apply.)

   □ I do not fish in freshwater.

   A. Largemouth Bass
   B. White Bass (Bar Fish)
   C. Bream (Bluegill, redear sunfish, chinquapin, warmouth, goggle-eye, perch)
   D. Catfish
   E. Crappie (Sac-au-lait)
   F. Other (Please specify) _____

7. The Department would like to determine the top concerns of **freshwater** recreational anglers. Please indicate your level of concern for each of the following issues. (Please circle your response.)

		No Concern	Low Concern	Medium Concern	High Concern	Highest Concern
A	Improving aquatic weed control ……...……..…	1	2	3	4	5
B	Increasing access to fishing areas by adding more boat ramps …	1	2	3	4	5
C	Cleaning up litter in and along Louisiana's waterways ……	1	2	3	4	5
D	Resolving issues related to landowners and fishing access ….	1	2	3	4	5
E	Controlling silver carp populations ……..…….	1	2	3	4	5
F	Providing more information to anglers, such as lake maps with locations of boat ramps and fishing piers ……....…….	1	2	3	4	5

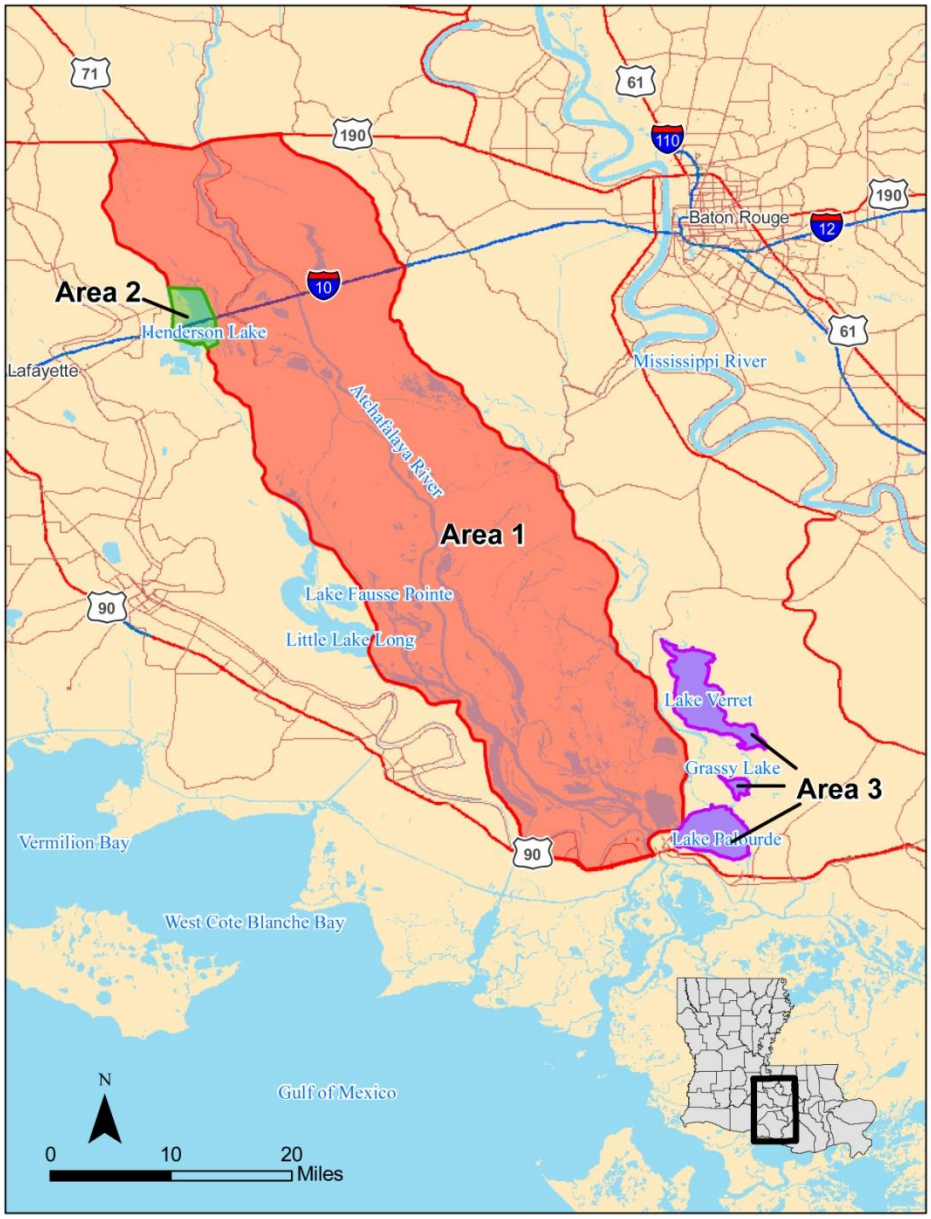
8. What do you think are the most important issues concerning **freshwater** recreational fishing in Louisiana today? (This can be any issue that matters to you, not just those listed above.)

9. Do you fish in any of the following **freshwater** areas? (Circle all that apply.)

   A. Toledo Bend
   B. The Atchafalaya Basin (Area 1 on Map)
   C. Henderson Lake (Area 2 on Map)
   D. The Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex (Area 3 on Map)
   E. Lake Fausse Pointe
   F. False River

   What other freshwater areas, besides the ones listed above, do you fish in?

   _____



Currently there is a 10-fish daily limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex.

In the next three questions we would like to find out your opinion on the current 10-fish daily limit for each of these areas. Please answer these questions whether you fish there or not.

10. If you were in charge of setting the daily limit for bass specifically for the Atchafalaya Basin (Area 1 on Map), what limit would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

A. No opinion.
B. Keep 10-fish daily limit for the Atchafalaya Basin
C. Change the daily limit in the Atchafalaya Basin to _____ fish
D. Other (Please specify)_____

11. If you were in charge of setting the daily limit for bass specifically for Henderson Lake (Area 2 on Map), what limit would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

A. No opinion.
B. Keep 10-fish daily limit for Henderson Lake
C. Change the daily limit in Henderson Lake to _____ fish
D. Other (Please specify)_____

12. If you were in charge of setting the daily limit for bass specifically for the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex (Area 3 on Map), what limit would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

A. No opinion.
B. Keep 10-fish daily limit for the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex
C. Change the daily limit in the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex to _____ fish
D. Other (Please specify)_____

Currently there is a 14-inch minimum size limit for bass in the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex.

In the next four questions we would like to find out your opinion on the current 14-inch minimum size limit for each of these areas. Please answer these questions whether you fish there or not.

13. How has the 14-inch minimum size limit for bass affected the number of fishing trips you take to the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake, and the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex? (Please circle your response.)

A. No affect at all
B. I probably take more trips to the areas because of the 14-inch size limit
C. I probably take fewer trips to the areas because of the 14-inch limit

A **PROTECTIVE SLOT LIMIT** would protect fish between a minimum and maximum length but allow you to keep fish smaller than the minimum or larger than the maximum.

For example, a 16-inch to 21-inch protective slot limit would mean that you could keep fish under 16 inches and over 21 inches but could not keep fish between 16 and 21 inches long.

14. If you could change the current 14-inch size limit for bass specifically for the Atchafalaya Basin (Area 1 on Map), which of the following changes would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

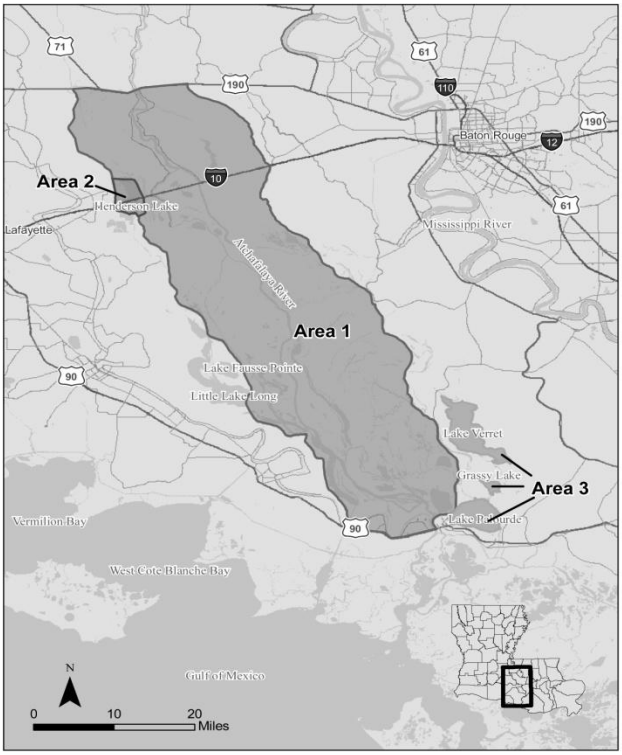
A. No opinion
B. Keep the 14-inch size limit in the Atchafalaya Basin
C. No size limit at all in the Atchafalaya Basin
D. Change the minimum size limit in the Atchafalaya to _____ inches
E. Put in a "protective slot limit" (See definition in the box above.)
   Set Lower Minimum = _____ inches and Maximum = _____ inches.
F. Other _____

15. If you could change the current 14-inch size limit for bass <u>specifically for Henderson Lake (Area 2 on Map)</u>, which of the following changes would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

A. No opinion
B. Keep the 14-inch size limit in Henderson Lake
C. No size limit at all in Henderson Lake
D. Change the minimum size limit in Henderson Lake to _____ inches
E. Put in a "protective slot limit" (See definition in box to the left.)
   Set Minimum = _____ inches and Maximum = _____ inches.
F. Other _____

16. If you could change the current 14-inch size limit for bass <u>specifically for the Lake Verret-Grassy Lake-Lake Palourde complex (Area 3 on Map)</u>, which of the following changes would you prefer? (Please circle your response and fill in the blank if applicable.)

A. No opinion
B. Keep the 14-inch size limit in the Complex
C. No size limit at all in the Complex
D. Change the minimum size limit in the Complex to _____ inches
E. Put in a "protective slot limit" (See definition in box to the left.)
   Set Minimum = _____ inches and Maximum = _____ inches.
F. Other _____



Personal Characteristics

17. Do you fish in fishing tournaments?

A. No
B. Yes

18. Do you belong to a bass club?

A. No
B. Yes

19. What is your ZIP code?

_____

20. What is your gender?

A. Female
B. Male

21. What is your age?

_____ Years

General Comments and Suggestions

If you have any additional comments or suggestions, please write them in the space below.